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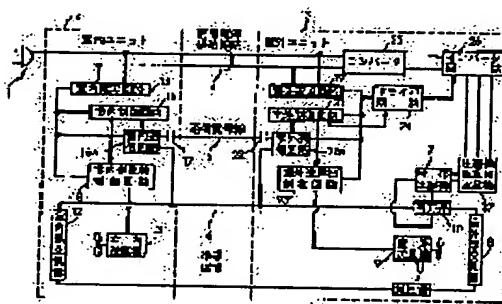
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(54) AIR CONDITIONER

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To simplify an installing operation, and reduce a working expenditure as well as a line cost by a method wherein the communication signal lines between each of an indoor device and an outdoor device of an indoor separate type air conditioner and an outdoor separate type air conditioner are reduced.

CONSTITUTION: A communication signal line path is formed of one communication signal line 5 and a refrigerant pipe 6. Communication circuits 16a, 21a are connected to the communication signal line path through either capacitors 17, 22 or a coupling transformer so as to perform a control signal communication. Or, the refrigerant pipe 6 is provided with an ultrasonic wave transducer acoustically coupled and then the communication circuits 16a, 21a are connected to the ultrasonic wave transducer so as to perform a communication of control signal through a pipe transmittance of the ultrasonic wave signal. The communication signal line can be reduced in its length under utilization of the refrigerant pipe 6.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The outdoor unit equipped with an outdoor heat exchange means, an outdoor control circuit, and outdoor side means of communications, In the air conditioner equipped with the signal-line way which connects between conductive refrigerant piping which connects between said heat exchange means of each [outside the interior of a room] of said unit with the indoor unit equipped with an indoor heat exchange means, an indoor control circuit, and interior-of-a-room side means of communications, and said means of communications The means of communications in said each unit is an air conditioner characterized by delivering and receiving a control signal as a signal-line way using one communication link signal line to which between said each unit is connected, and said refrigerant piping.

[Claim 2] It is the air conditioner characterized by connecting the means of communications of each of said unit to said signal-line way through a coupling capacitor in claim 1.

[Claim 3] It is the air conditioner characterized by connecting the means of communications of each of said unit to said signal-line way through a joint transformer in claim 1.

[Claim 4] It is the air conditioner characterized by delivering and receiving through said communication line after the means of communications of each of said unit modulates a control signal in claim 1.

[Claim 5] It is the air conditioner characterized by the means of communications of each of said unit carrying out the carrier modulation of the control signal in claim 4.

[Claim 6] The outdoor unit equipped with an outdoor heat exchange means, an outdoor control circuit, and outdoor side means of communications, In the air conditioner equipped with refrigerant piping which connects between said heat exchange means of each [outside the interior of a room] of said unit with the indoor unit equipped with an indoor heat exchange means, an indoor control circuit, and interior-of-a-room side means of communications The means of communications in said each unit is an air conditioner characterized by having an electroacoustic transduction means to transduce a control signal electroacoustically to an ultrasonic signal, and to deliver and receive through said refrigerant piping.

[Claim 7] It is the air conditioner characterized by having the converter to which said electroacoustic transduction means carries out the interconversion of an electrical signal and the ultrasonic signal in claim 6.

[Claim 8] It is the air conditioner characterized by changing into an acoustic signal with said electroacoustic transduction means, and transmitting to said refrigerant piping after said means of communications modulates said control signal in claim 6.

[Claim 9] It is the air conditioner characterized by changing into an acoustic signal with said electroacoustic transduction means, and transmitting to said refrigerant piping after said means's of communications changing said control signal into a multi-frequency signal in claim 6 and modulating this.

[Claim 10] It is the air conditioner characterized by said means of communications carrying out the frequency modulation of said control signal in claims 8 or 9.

[Claim 11] The air conditioner characterized by said multi-frequency signal being a DTMF signal in claim 9.

[Claim 12] It is the air conditioner characterized by for said means of communications placing predetermined time amount between each acoustic signal in claims 8 or 9, and transmitting.

[Claim 13] The outdoor unit equipped with the power circuit for control which rectifies an outdoor heat exchange means, an outdoor control circuit, outdoor side means of communications, the incoming circuit that receives a source power supply, and the commercial electrical potential difference which received transmitted electricity, and generates the supply voltage for control, The indoor unit equipped with an indoor heat exchange means, an indoor control circuit, and interior-of-a-room side means of communications, The supply voltage supply track for control which supplies the supply voltage for control which connected between said each [outside the interior of a room] unit, and said power circuit for control generated to said indoor control circuit and interior-of-a-room side means of communications, It is the air conditioner characterized by said indoor outside each means of communications delivering and receiving a control signal through said supply voltage supply track for control in the air conditioner which has refrigerant piping which connects between said each [outside the interior of a room] unit.

[Claim 14] In claim 13, said each [outside the interior of a room] unit is equipped with a choke coil and a coupling capacitor, respectively. An outdoor unit supplies the supply voltage for control created in said power circuit for control to said supply voltage supply track for control through said choke coil. While an indoor unit supplies the DC-power-supply electrical potential difference from said supply voltage supply track for control to the control circuit in this unit through said choke coil Said each means of communications is an air conditioner characterized by connecting with said supply voltage supply track for control through said each coupling capacitor on the outside of each of said choke coil.

[Claim 15] In claim 13, said each [outside the interior of a room] unit is equipped with a joint transformer. An outdoor unit supplies the supply voltage for control created in said power circuit for control to said supply voltage supply track for control through said joint transformer. It is the air conditioner characterized by connecting said each means of communications to said supply voltage supply track for control through said each joint transformer while an indoor unit supplies the DC-power-supply electrical potential difference from said supply voltage supply track for control to the control circuit in this unit through said joint transformer.

[Claim 16] It is the air conditioner characterized by said each joint transformer being a hybrid transformer in claim 15.

[Claim 17] It is the air conditioner characterized by transmitting to said supply voltage supply track for control after said each means of communications modulates said control signal in claim 13.

[Claim 18] It is the air conditioner characterized by said each means of communications carrying out the carrier modulation of the control signal in claim 17.

[Claim 19] It is the air conditioner characterized by changing the supply voltage for control which said power circuit for control is controlled in claim 13 based on said control signal, and is supplied to said supply voltage supply track for control.

[Claim 20] It is the air conditioner characterized by having the electric blower which it has the voltage stabilizer where said indoor unit supplies said supply voltage for control to said indoor control circuit and interior-of-a-room side means of communications by adjusting to a fixed electrical potential difference in claim 19, and said indoor heat exchange means is energized with said supply voltage for control, and rotates with the rotational speed according to an electrical-potential-difference value.

[Claim 21] The outdoor unit equipped with the power circuit for control which rectifies an outdoor heat exchange means, an outdoor control circuit, outdoor side means of communications, and a source-power-supply electrical potential difference, and generates the supply voltage for control, The indoor unit equipped with an indoor heat exchange means, an indoor control circuit, and interior-of-a-room side means of communications, The supply voltage supply track for control which supplies the supply voltage for control which connected between said each [outside the interior of a room] unit, and said power circuit for control generated to said indoor control circuit and interior-of-a-room side means of communications, In the air

conditioner which has refrigerant piping which connects between said each [outside the interior of a room] unit It is the air conditioner which said indoor unit is equipped with the incoming circuit which receives a source power supply and is supplied to said indoor unit, and is characterized by said indoor outside each means of communications delivering and receiving a control signal through said supply voltage supply track for control.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the air conditioner which performs air-conditioning control, while the outdoor unit and indoor unit which were applied to the air conditioner of the equation which is separable outside the interior of a room, especially were separated deliver and receive a control signal through a signal-line way.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The air conditioner of the conventional equation which is separable outside the interior of a room is receiving the source power supply with the indoor unit, and is equipped with 2 sets (a total of four path cords), two current supply tracks which supply a source power supply, and two communication link signal-line ways which transmit a control signal, as an electric track which connects between an indoor unit and outdoor units as indicated by JP,4-81707,B or JP,3-28650,A. Furthermore, it has refrigerant piping of two which forms the refrigerant passage of a refrigerating cycle between the units outside the interior of a room.

[0003] In order to reduce the electric number of path cords between the units outside the interior of a room, the air conditioner of the indoor external division mold release indicated by JP,4-36533,A has proposed omitting the communication link signal-line way of dedication by superimposing and transmitting a control signal to the path cord way for source-power-supply supply.

[0004] Moreover, it has proposed superimposing a source-power-supply synchronizing signal on this path cord way, and transmitting to an indoor unit while supplying it to an indoor unit on the path cord way for the supply voltage supply for control, after the air conditioner of the equation which is separable outside the interior of a room indicated by JP,4-73543,A, for example receives a source power supply with an outdoor unit and changes a source power supply into the supply voltage for control of a direct current here.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, in order to connect electrically between the units outside the interior of a room, 2 sets (a total of 4), a source-power-supply supply track and a communication link signal-line way, are required for such a conventional air conditioner, and it has a problem in respect of the complicatedness of the installation activity of an air conditioner, activity costs, and a track ingredient price. It becomes a big problem in constituting an air conditioner especially from one set of two or more sets of indoor units, and an outdoor unit. Moreover, in order that each may transform the source-power-supply electrical potential difference of an alternating current into the supply voltage for control of a direct current, a power-source conversion means is required for each [outside the interior of a room] unit, and since a pressure-lowering transformer, a rectifier, a smoothing capacitor, etc. are need, this power-source conversion means has usually been the failure of a miniaturization of an indoor unit.

[0006] Moreover, when it is required to intercept certainly the big potential difference between a source-power-supply system and a control system if it is going to use the path cord way for the source-power-supply supply between the units outside the interior of a room for transfer of a

control signal and a source-power-supply electrical potential difference leaks to a control system by the misdelivery-of-mail line, degradation of cutoff components, etc., there is risk of a control system being destroyed. Furthermore, in order to prevent that the noise which prevents that a control signal leaks out on the source-power-supply track, or is conversely mixed in a source-power-supply track influences a control signal, an expensive blocking filter is needed for a power receiving location. Furthermore, the signal transfer means which used the electrical part of high pressure-proofing is needed again. And each [outside the interior of a room] unit needs the power-source conversion means for obtaining the supply voltage for control.

[0007] Furthermore, conventionally which is supplied to an indoor unit after receiving a source power supply with an outdoor unit and changing into the supply voltage for control again, equipment uses the communication link signal-line way of the independent dedication for transmission of a control signal, and 2 sets (a total of 4) of electrical connection lines, the current supply track for control and a communication link signal-line way, were needed, and it has left the problem in the viewpoint of the complicatedness of an installation activity, activity costs, and a track ingredient price after all.

[0008] Therefore, the 1st purpose of this invention is to make unnecessary the high-voltage cutoff function in means of communications while reducing activity costs and a track price by reducing the number of path cords of the communication link signal-line way to which the indoor unit and outdoor unit in the equation—which-is—separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room are connected, and simplifying the installation activity of an air conditioner.

[0009] Both the problems of incorrect connection are abolished and the 2nd purpose of this invention is in the thing which make unnecessary the path cord according to rank for the communication link signal-line way to which the indoor unit and outdoor unit in the equation—which—is—separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room are connected, and simplifies the installation activity of an air conditioner and for which activity costs and a track price are reduced.

[0010] The 3rd purpose of this invention is to mitigate the failure of a miniaturization of an indoor unit while reducing activity costs and a track price by reducing the number of path cords of the communication link signal-line way to which the indoor unit and outdoor unit in the equation—which—is—separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room are connected, and simplifying the installation activity of an air conditioner.

[0011] The 4th purpose of this invention mitigates the failure of a miniaturization of an indoor unit while reducing activity costs and a track price by reducing the number of path cords of the communication link signal-line way to which the indoor unit and outdoor unit in the equation—which—is—separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room are connected, and simplifying the installation activity of an air conditioner, and it is in making it further easy to connect to a source power supply.

[0012]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The outdoor unit with which the 1st invention was equipped with an outdoor heat exchange means, an outdoor control circuit, and outdoor side means of communications, In the air conditioner equipped with the signal-line way which connects between conductive refrigerant piping which connects between said heat exchange means of each [outside the interior of a room] of said unit with the indoor unit equipped with an indoor heat exchange means, an indoor control circuit, and interior-of-a-room side means of communications, and said means of communications The means of communications in said each unit is characterized by delivering and receiving a control signal as a signal-line way using one communication link signal line to which between said each unit is connected, and said refrigerant piping.

[0013] The outdoor unit with which the 2nd invention was equipped with an outdoor heat exchange means, an outdoor control circuit, and outdoor side means of communications, In the air conditioner equipped with refrigerant piping which connects between said heat exchange means of each [outside the interior of a room] of said unit with the indoor unit equipped with an indoor heat exchange means, an indoor control circuit, and interior-of-a-room side means of communications The means of communications in said each unit is characterized by having an

electroacoustic transduction means to transduce a control signal electroacoustically to an ultrasonic signal, and to deliver and receive through said refrigerant piping.

[0014] The outdoor unit equipped with the power circuit for control which the 3rd invention rectifies an outdoor heat exchange means, an outdoor control circuit, outdoor side means of communications, the incoming circuit that receives a source power supply, and the commercial electrical potential difference which received transmitted electricity, and generates the supply voltage for control, The indoor unit equipped with an indoor heat exchange means, an indoor control circuit, and interior-of-a-room side means of communications, The supply voltage supply track for control which supplies the supply voltage for control which connected between said each [outside the interior of a room] unit, and said power circuit for control generated to said indoor control circuit and interior-of-a-room side means of communications, In the air conditioner which has refrigerant piping which connects between said each [outside the interior of a room] unit, said indoor outside each means of communications is characterized by delivering and receiving a control signal through said supply voltage supply track for control.

[0015] And the outdoor unit equipped with the power circuit for control which the 4th invention rectifies an outdoor heat exchange means, an outdoor control circuit, outdoor side means of communications, and a source-power-supply electrical potential difference, and generates the supply voltage for control, The indoor unit equipped with an indoor heat exchange means, an indoor control circuit, and interior-of-a-room side means of communications, The supply voltage supply track for control which supplies the supply voltage for control which connected between said each [outside the interior of a room] unit, and said power circuit for control generated to said indoor control circuit and interior-of-a-room side means of communications, In the air conditioner which has refrigerant piping which connects between said each [outside the interior of a room] unit Said indoor unit is equipped with the incoming circuit which receives a source power supply and is supplied to said indoor unit, and said indoor outside each means of communications is characterized by delivering and receiving a control signal through said supply voltage supply track for control.

[0016]

[Function] In the 1st invention, since refrigerant piping functions as a communication link signal line, the number of communication link signal lines of dedication decreases, an installation activity is simplified, and activity costs and a track price are reduced. Moreover, since the source-power-supply line of the high voltage is not used, it is not necessary to give a high-voltage cutoff function to means of communications.

[0017] in the 2nd invention, since means of communications changes a control signal into the gestalt of an ultrasonic signal, makes refrigerant piping spread and is delivered and received, it makes unnecessary the path cord according to rank for the communication link signal-line way which ties an indoor unit and an outdoor unit, and simplifies the installation activity of an air conditioner -- both the problems of incorrect connection are abolished and activity costs and a track price are reduced.

[0018] In the 3rd invention the means of communications of each [outside the interior of a room] unit Activity costs and a track price can be reduced by reducing the number of path cords of the communication link signal-line way of dedication which ties an indoor unit and an outdoor unit since a control signal is delivered and received using the supply voltage supply track for control, and simplifying the installation activity of an air conditioner. Again Since supply of the supply voltage for control is received from an outdoor unit, the power unit for control according to rank becomes unnecessary, and an indoor unit can mitigate the failure of a miniaturization.

[0019] And in the 4th invention, since the air conditioner equipped with the above descriptions makes it possible to receive transmitted electricity from an indoor power supply terminal, an incoming circuit makes connection with a source power supply easy.

[0020]

[Example] Hereafter, the example of this invention is explained with reference to a drawing.

[0021] Drawing 1 is the block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 1st example of this invention. For an indoor unit and 3, as for a source-power-supply supply track and 5, in drawing 1, an outdoor unit and 4 are [1 / source-

power-supply receiving end childen, such as a plug cap, and 2 / a communication link signal line and 6] refrigerant piping. It connects for the refrigerant piping 6 of 5 or 2 communication link signal lines of two source-power-supply supply tracks [4 or 1], and the indoor unit 2 installed indoors and the outdoor unit 3 installed in outdoor constitute the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room.

[0022] 7 -- a refrigerant compressor and 8 -- with a pressure reducer, an outdoor electric blower and 10 are prepared for these in a four way valve, 11 is prepared for an outdoor heat exchanger and 9 in an outdoor unit 3, with an indoor electric blower, 12 is prepared for these in indoor heat exchanger, 13 is prepared in an indoor unit 2, and these constitute the refrigerating cycle with the refrigerant piping 6.

[0023] For an indoor power circuit and 15, an indoor control circuit and 16a of an interior-of-a-room side communication circuit and 17 are [14 / an interior-of-a-room side coupling capacitor and 18] indoor blower control circuits, and these are installed in an indoor unit 2. 19 -- an outdoor power circuit and 20 -- an outdoor control circuit and 21a -- for an outdoor blower control circuit and 24, as for a converter and 26, a driver circuit and 25 are [an outdoor side communication circuit and 22 / an outdoor side coupling capacitor and 23 / an inverter circuit and 27] the motors for a compressor drive, and these are installed in an outdoor unit 3.

[0024] The source-power-supply electrical potential difference which received transmitted electricity by the source-power-supply receiving end child 1 is transformed into the supply voltage for control of a direct current required within this indoor unit 2 in the indoor power circuit 14 of an indoor unit 2, and is supplied to the indoor control circuit 15, interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16a, and the indoor blower control circuit 18. Moreover, this source-power-supply electrical potential difference is supplied to an outdoor unit 3 through the source-power-supply supply track 4. An outdoor unit 3 transforms this source-power-supply electrical potential difference into the supply voltage for control of a direct current required within this outdoor unit 3 in the outdoor power circuit 19, and supplies it to the outdoor control circuit 20, outdoor side communication circuit 21a, the outdoor blower control circuit 23, and a driver circuit 24. Furthermore, this source-power-supply electrical potential difference is changed into direct current voltage by the converter 25 which consists of a diode bridge and a capacitor, is transformed into a three phase electrical potential difference by the inverter circuit 26 which consists of six power transistors, and is supplied to the motor 27 for a compressor drive. The rotational speed of the motor 27 for a compressor drive changes by changing the frequency of the three phase electrical potential difference supplied from an inverter circuit 26, and the frequency of this three phase electrical potential difference is controlled by changing the period of the base driving signal of the power transistor of the inverter circuit 26 which a driver circuit 24 creates based on the control signal to which it is given from the outdoor control circuit 20.

[0025] The interior of a room and the outdoor power circuits 14 and 19 consist of a power transformer, a diode bridge, etc., and a source-power-supply circuit is insulated. Moreover, the driver circuit 24 was constituted so that a base driving signal might be outputted through a photo coupler etc., and it has insulated between the inverter circuit 26 which is not insulated with a source-power-supply circuit, and the outdoor control circuits 20.

[0026] The interior of a room and the outdoor control circuits 15 and 20 perform control which it is constituted [control] centering on a microcomputer, and each [outside the interior of a room] unit 2 and the control signal which controls each circuit in three are created [control], and a control signal is mutually delivered [control] and received through communication circuits 16a and 21a, and adjusts actuation of each [outside the interior of a room] units 2 and 3.

[0027] The interior of a room and the outdoor blower control circuits 18 and 23 consist of DC-DC converters etc., change the magnitude of the electrical potential difference given to the direct current motor of the interior of a room and the outdoor electric blowers 9 and 13 based on the control signal from the interior of a room and the outdoor control circuits 15 and 20, change the rotational speed, and control the interior of a room and the amount of ventilation to outdoor heat exchangers 8 and 12.

[0028] Next, the means of communications which delivers and receives the control signal between each [outside the interior of a room] units 2 and 3 which are the chief aims of this

invention is explained to a detail. It has a modulation circuit and a demodulator circuit, and connects with the communication link signal-line way which consists of one communication link signal line 5 and refrigerant piping 6 mainly made with a copper tube through the interior-of-a-room side and outdoor side coupling capacitors 17 and 22, and the interior-of-a-room side and outdoor side communication circuits 16a and 21a send and receive a control signal between an indoor unit 2 and an outdoor unit 3.

[0029] Drawing 2 shows one example of connection with the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6 which constitute the configuration and communication link signal-line way of interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16a. drawing 2 — setting — 50a — a modulation circuit and 51a — for a power-source grand terminal and 54, as for a control signal output terminal and 56, a control signal input terminal and 55 are [a demodulator circuit and 52 / a power supply terminal and 53 / a signal transmission input/output terminal and 57] signal transmission grand terminals.

[0030] From the indoor power circuit 14, the supply voltage for control of a direct current is supplied between a power supply terminal 52 and the power-source grand terminal 53, and this interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16a operates. Modulation circuit 50a inputs the control signal from the indoor control circuit 14 through the control signal input terminal 54, and carries out a carrier modulation.

[0031] Drawing 3 shows the relation between this control signal and a carrier modulating signal. It is a binary code, if a control signal is logic "0", it will not generate a carrier signal, but if it is logic "1", it will generate the carrier signal of a predetermined frequency. That is, a control signal is changed into the gestalt of the existence of a carrier signal.

[0032] Demodulator circuit 51a restores to a carrier modulating signal. If this has a carrier signal contrary to previous modulation circuit 50a — logic "1" — if there is nothing, the control signal of logic "0" will be generated. This control signal to which it restored is outputted to the indoor control circuit 14 from the control signal output terminal 55. It connects with the signal transmission input/output terminal 56, and both the outgoing end of modulation circuit 50a and the input edge of demodulator circuit 51a are connected to the communication link signal line 5 through the interior-of-a-room side coupling capacitor 17. The signal transmission grand terminal 57 is connected to the refrigerant piping 6. In addition, the signal transmission grand terminal 57 is connected with the power-source grand terminal 53 within interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16a.

[0033] Drawing 4 shows the concrete example of the I/O parts of a modulation circuit and a demodulator circuit. The non-balancing I/O circuit shown in (A) is used for the output and the input section of modulation circuit 50a in the example mentioned above, and demodulator circuit 51a, a non-balancing I/O edge is connected to the signal transmission input/output terminal 56, and the gland of a circuit is connected to the signal transmission grand terminal 57 and the power-source grand terminal 53.

[0034] Outdoor side communication circuit 21a is also the same configuration as interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16a, and connection, and the supply voltage for control of a direct current is supplied from the outdoor power circuit 19. The input edge of a modulation circuit and the outgoing end of a demodulator circuit are connected to the outdoor control circuit 20, the outgoing end of a modulation circuit and the input edge of a demodulator circuit are connected to the communication link signal line 5 through the outdoor side coupling capacitor 22, and the signal transmission grand terminal 57 is connected to the refrigerant piping 6.

[0035] In this way, the communication circuits 16a and 21a by the side of the interior of a room and outdoor are connected with the communication link signal-line way which consists of refrigerant piping 6 to the communication link signal line 5 through coupling capacitors 17 and 22, respectively, and mediate transfer of the control signal between the indoor control circuit 15 and the outdoor control circuit 20. In transfer of this control signal, it is only that the feeble alternating current of an alternating current modulating signal flows in a communication link signal-line way, and the problem of the corrosion by the electrochemistry operation by the direct current in the mechanical-connections part of the refrigerant piping 6 is avoided, and a thin

signal line is sufficient for the communication link signal line 5. Moreover, in this example, the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6 constitute the non-balancing communication line.

[0036] In addition, when the one-way communication, i.e., the interior of a room, side of Communications Act of this control signal is transmission, an outdoor side is simple to consider as reception, and it is desirable. in order for this to perform two-way communication of transceiver coincidence, it is required to connect with a signal transmission input/output terminal, after connecting (1) non-balancing I/O circuit by the counterbalancing circuit, and to change the carrier frequency of (2) transmission and reception -- etc. -- it is because circuitry becomes complicated. Moreover, a modulation technique can be deformed not only into the carrier modulation mentioned above but into other FM modulations etc.

[0037] Since the refrigerant piping 6 functions as one communication link signal line according to the above example, a total of three of two source-power-supply supply tracks 4 and one communication link signal line 5 are sufficient as the electrical connection line which connects between an indoor unit 2 and outdoor units 3, an installation activity is simplified and activity costs and a track price reduce it. Moreover, since the source-power-supply supply line of the high voltage is not used for transfer of a control signal, it is not necessary to give a high-voltage cutoff function to communication circuits 16a and 21a.

[0038] Drawing 5 is the block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 2nd example of this invention. In drawing 5, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 1 are this and an equivalent. This example is the thing equipped with the modulation and demodulator circuits 50b and 51b where the interior-of-a-room side and outdoor side communication circuits 16b and 21b adopted the balanced I/O circuit, makes the communication link signal line 5 and refrigerant piping 6 the balanced communication line, and it is constituted so that a control signal may be delivered and received using this.

[0039] Drawing 6 shows other examples of connection to the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6 which constitute the configuration and communication link signal-line way of interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16b. In drawing 6, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 2 are this and an equivalent.

[0040] The balanced I/O circuit shown in (B) of drawing 4 is used for the output and input edge of modulation circuit 50b in this example, and demodulator circuit 51b, one of the two of a balanced I/O edge is connected to the signal transmission input/output terminal 56, and other one of the two is connected to the signal transmission grand terminal 57. And as for the signal transmission input/output terminal 56 and the signal transmission grand terminal 57, each is connected to the communication link signal line 5 or the refrigerant piping 6 through coupling capacitors 17a and 17b.

[0041] Thus, by making a communication link signal-line way into the balanced line, the communication link which had strong drag force to the noise (called common mode noise) active jamming on which it is superimposed in common with the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6 is attained. Since other actuation is the same as that of the 1st example, detailed explanation is omitted.

[0042] Drawing 7 is the block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 3rd example of this invention. In drawing 7, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 1 are this and an equivalent, 28 is an interior-of-a-room side joint transformer, and 29 is an outdoor side joint transformer. Using this, this example is what connected the I/O edge of the interior-of-a-room side and outdoor side communication circuits 16a and 21a to the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6 through the joint transformers 28 and 29, and receives [are and] it made to deliver a control signal among each [outside the interior of a room] units 2 and 3.

[0043] Drawing 8 shows other examples of connection to the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6 which constitute the configuration and communication link signal-line way of interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16a. In drawing 8, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 2 are this and an equivalent.

[0044] The non-balancing I/O circuit shown in (A) of drawing 4 is used for the output and input edge of modulation circuit 50a in this example, and demodulator circuit 51a, a non-balancing I/O edge is connected to the signal transmission input/output terminal 56, and the gland of a circuit is connected to the signal transmission grand terminal 57 and the power-source grand terminal 53. And the signal transmission input/output terminal 56 and the signal transmission grand terminal 57 are connected to the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6 through the joint transformer 28, respectively.

[0045] Generally, in the example shown in drawing 1 and drawing 5, since the withstand voltage of a capacitor is low as compared with the withstand voltage of a transformer, when the communication link signal line 5 is mistaken for the source-power-supply supply track 4 and it connects, there is a possibility that a source-power-supply electrical potential difference may be impressed to coupling capacitors 17 and 22, and dielectric breakdown may arise. If a coupling capacitor is destroyed, a source-power-supply electrical potential difference will leak to the indoor outside communication circuits 16a, 16b, 21a, and 21b, and these will also be destroyed succeedingly. However, the joint transformers 17 and 22 are easy to take the large withstand voltage between a primary coil and a secondary coil generally, and the withstand voltage of thousands of volts is obtained, without carrying out special processing. Therefore, even if the above incorrect connection is made with the configuration which used the ordinary joint transformer, but a source-power-supply electrical potential difference leaks, and a communication circuit is not destroyed. Since other actuation is the same as that of the 1st example, detailed explanation is omitted.

[0046] Drawing 9 is the block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 4th example of this invention. In drawing 9, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 7 are this and an equivalent. This example is what used the interior of a room equipped with the modulation and demodulator circuits 50b and 51b which adopted the balanced I/O circuit, and the outdoor side communication circuits 16b and 21b, and a control signal is delivered and received as the balanced communication line using the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6.

[0047] Drawing 10 shows other examples of connection to the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6 which constitute the configuration and communication link signal-line way of interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16b. In drawing 10, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 8 are this and an equivalent. The balanced I/O circuit shown in (B) of drawing 4 is used for the output and the input section of modulation circuit 50b and demodulator circuit 51b, one of the two of a balanced I/O edge is connected to the signal transmission input/output terminal 56, and other one of the two is connected to the signal transmission grand terminal 57. And the signal transmission input/output terminal 56 and the signal transmission grand terminal 57 are connected to the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6 through the joint transformer 28, respectively.

[0048] Thus, by making a communication link signal-line way into the balanced line, the communication link which had strong drag force to noise jamming on which it is superimposed in common with the communication link signal line 5 and the refrigerant piping 6 is attained compared with the 3rd example shown in drawing 7. Since other actuation is the same as that of the 1st example, explanation is omitted.

[0049] in addition, the 1- mentioned above -- the source-power-supply receiving end child 1 in each 4th example draws from an outdoor unit 3, and can receive transmitted electricity by the interior-of-a-room side.

[0050] According to each equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes the 1st invention explained above, since the electrical connection line between the units outside the interior of a room can be reduced, an installation activity is simplified and activity costs and a track price are reduced. Moreover, since the source-power-supply supply line of the high voltage is not used for transfer of a control signal, it is not necessary to give a high-voltage cutoff function to a communication circuit.

[0051] Drawing 11 is the block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 5th example of this invention. In drawing 11, the

configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 1 are this and an equivalent. This example is equipped with the interior-of-a-room side supersonic-wave transducer 30 and the outdoor side supersonic-wave transducer 31 as an electroacoustic transducer which carries out an acoustic turnover to this refrigerant piping 6, in order that each means of communications in each [outside the interior of a room] units 2 and 3 may deliver and receive a control signal through the refrigerant piping 6 with the gestalt of an ultrasonic signal. The acoustic turnover of outdoor side each of these ultrasonic transducers 30 and 31 is carried out to the refrigerant piping 6 drawn in the indoor unit 2 and the outdoor unit 3, respectively. It connects with the communication circuits 16 and 21 which carry out the strange recovery of the control signal, and each ultrasonic transducers 30 and 31 send out the output signal of the modulation circuit in this communication circuit to the refrigerant piping 6 by which the acoustic turnover was changed and carried out to the ultrasonic signal, change into an electrical signal the ultrasonic signal which has spread the refrigerant piping 6, and input it into a demodulator circuit. An ultrasonic signal spreads the front face or building envelope of the refrigerant piping 6. Generally, the refrigerant piping 6 is made from hollow metals, such as copper, and refrigerants, such as chlorofluocarbon, flow the inside of it. And in order for this hollow metal itself to prevent the heat loss in refrigerant transportation, it is covered with heat insulators, such as sponge. Therefore, this refrigerant piping 6 is the suitable structure for constituting the so-called voice tube and making an ultrasonic signal spread using this. Of course, for this refrigerant piping 6, the sound by other factors, for example, a refrigerant style sound, a compressor oscillating sound, the rotational-vibration sound of the motor for a compressor drive, etc. are spread. Therefore, as for the oscillation frequency of the supersonic wave used for the communication link of a control signal, it is desirable to choose the outside of these oscillation frequency bands, and to avoid audio frequency. It is convenient if it is made the configuration which can use a cheap piezoelectric transducer with a nominal frequency of 40kHz as ultrasonic transducers 30 and 31. A piezoelectric device can be used also [reception / of an ultrasonic signal / transmission and reception] as an electroacoustic transducer. This piezoelectric device takes adjustment of an acoustic impedance through suitable acoustic turnover material, and it carries out an acoustic turnover to the refrigerant piping 6.

[0052] It becomes irregular in the modulation circuit in the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16, and the control signal which the indoor control circuit 15 transmits is changed into an ultrasonic signal by the interior-of-a-room side supersonic-wave transducer 30, and even an outdoor unit 3 spreads the refrigerant piping 6, and it goes. It is changed into an electrical signal by the outdoor side supersonic-wave transducer 31, it gets over in the demodulator circuit in the outdoor side communication circuit 21, and this ultrasonic signal turns into a control signal of the original gestalt, and is transmitted to the outdoor control circuit 20. The same is said of transmission of the control signal from the outdoor control circuit 20 to the indoor control circuit 15.

[0053] Drawing 12 shows one example of the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16. In drawing 12, the configuration means of the same sign as the drawing 2 Fig. are this and an equivalent. this example -- setting -- 61 -- for a coding network and 64, as for a decryption circuit and 66, a DTMF signal generating circuit and 65 are [a carrier signal generating circuit and 62 / FM modulation circuit and 63 / a DTMF signal detector and 67] FM demodulator circuits. These circuits operate with the supply voltage from the indoor power circuit 14 supplied to a power supply terminal 52 and the power-source grand terminal 53.

[0054] Drawing 13 shows the example of the timing relationship of a control signal, a DTMF signal, and an ultrasonic signal.

[0055] Next, the actuation when transmitting a control signal to an outdoor unit 3 is explained to a detail using drawing 11 – drawing 13 from an indoor unit 2. The control signal from the indoor control circuit 15 is inputted into a coding network 63 through the control signal input terminal 54, and is encoded to 4 bits here. In the case of sequential data, a control signal only uses the DTMF signal generating circuit 64 at a time for this with a break and these 4 bit data at 4 bits, as shown in drawing 13, and a coding network 63 generates one multiplex (2) signalling frequency. When control signals are the parallel data which are 4 bits, the coding network 63 is

unnecessary and inputs this data into the DTMF signal generating circuit 64 as it is. It divides into 4 bits at a time by the coding network 63 like [in the case of parallel data 4 bits or more] the point. Furthermore, when adding the redundant bit for the error detection which happens at the time of transmission, or an error correction to a control signal, this bit addition may be performed by the coding network 63. When control signals are other signal formats, for example, the amplitude of analog voltage, it encodes to 4 bits here.

[0056] A DTMF (Dual Tone Multi-Frequency) signal is a combination signal of two frequencies used for the selection signal of PB (Push Button) type telephone, and is a multi-frequency signal which chose and combined one, respectively out of four high group frequencies which have the relation of relatively prime, and four low group frequencies. And there is $4 \times 4 = 16$ kind combination in this signal, and the control information which is 4 bits can be made to bear. In addition, although a DTMF signal explains since it is easy here, the frequency which does not restrict to this and is contained in the combination of three frequencies or one frequency group may be increased to five. If it carries out like this, the amount of information which one carrier signal (symbol) is made to bear can be increased.

[0057] The FM modulation circuit 62 carries out FM modulation of the carrier signal (for example, 40kHz sinusoidal signal) by the previous DTMF signal. And this modulating signal-ed is sent to the ultrasonic transducer 30, is changed into the ultrasonic signal by which FM modulation was carried out here from the signal transmission input/output terminal 56, and is sent out to the refrigerant piping 6. The wave of this ultrasonic signal spreads the refrigerant piping 6, is transmitted to the outdoor side supersonic-wave transducer 31 of an outdoor unit 3, and is changed into an electrical signal here.

[0058] The outdoor side communication circuit 21 is the same configuration as the indoor communication circuit 16. It is detected by the DTMF signal detector 66 which the received modulating signal is inputted into the FM demodulator circuit 67 of the outdoor communication circuit 21, restores to it here, and consists of filters of which signalling frequency it is combination. A decoder circuit 65 reproduces the original sign with reference to this combination information. That is, it is returned to the original control signal here. The same is said of transmission of the control signal from the outdoor control circuit 20 to the indoor control circuit 15.

[0059] As mentioned above, although the communication link of the control signal using the ultrasonic signal by which frequency modulation was carried out by the DTMF signal was explained, it does not restrict to this. For example, other frequency modulation, such as FSK (Frequency Shift Keying), may be used. Moreover, PEs, such as PSK (Phase Shift Keying), may be used. Furthermore, although the carrier modulation which is amplitude modulation may be used like the 1st example shown in drawing 1, since the amplitude fluctuation by an echo being overlapped on a direct wave in propagation of a supersonic wave (phasing phenomenon) is large, amplitude modulation is disadvantageous.

[0060] In addition, although two or more ultrasonic signals modulated by the DTMF signal are respectively made into the timing chart which opens time amount and transmits in drawing 13, this prevents overlapping the echo signal with which the propagation times differ on the following ultrasonic signal, and it acts so that recovery actuation may be carried out to stability.

[0061] According to the above equation-which-is-separable air conditioners outside the interior of a room, for the communication link of the control signal between each [outside the interior of a room] unit, the telecommunication line according to a rank like a device before becomes unnecessary, and by making the propagation of an ultrasonic signal which made refrigerant piping which ties an indoor unit and an outdoor unit bear a control signal mediate, since a refrigerating cycle is constituted, the problem of incorrect connection of it is also lost while the installation activity of an air conditioner is simplified. Consequently, installation activity costs and a track price can be reduced.

[0062] Drawing 14 is the block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 6th example which becomes this invention. In drawing 14, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 1 is an equivalent, and 33 is a supply voltage supply track for control where an interior-of-a-room side choke coil and 34

supply an outdoor side choke coil, and 35 supplies the supply voltage for control of a direct current to an indoor unit 2 from an outdoor unit 3.

[0063] This example is constituted so that this supply voltage supply track 35 for control may be used for the communication link of the control signal between the unit 2 outside the interior of a room, and 3, while creating a required DC-power-supply electrical potential difference with an outdoor unit 3 in an indoor unit 2 and supplying an indoor unit 2 through the supply voltage supply track 35 for control. It connects with said supply voltage supply track 35 for control through coupling capacitors 17 and 22, and the communication circuits 16 and 21 of each [outside the interior of a room] units 2 and 3 deliver and receive a control signal.

[0064] An outdoor unit 3 receives a source power supply by the source-power-supply receiving end child 1, and it creates the supply voltage for control of a required direct current with an indoor unit 2 while it creates the supply voltage for control of a required direct current with this outdoor unit 3 in the outdoor power circuit 19. And this supply voltage is supplied to an indoor unit 2 through the supply voltage supply track 35 for control. The indoor control circuit 15 in an indoor unit 2, the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16, and the indoor blower control circuit 18 operate considering the supply voltage supplied from this outdoor unit 3 as a power source.

[0065] The power-source input impedance of each circuit in an indoor unit 2 and the power-outlet impedance of the outdoor power circuit 19 are designed to a low value, in order to reduce noises, such as ripple fluctuation. For this reason, if signal transmission with a high frequency component is superimposed on the supply voltage supply track 35 for control, this signal transmission cannot be decreased because of a low impedance, and cannot perform a normal communication link. Although said interior-of-a-room side and the outdoor side choke coils 33 and 34 do not have an impedance to a DC-power-supply electrical potential difference, they have a big impedance to the signal transmission of a high frequency component. Therefore, an interior-of-a-room side and the outdoor side choke coils 33 and 34 raise the impedance of the supply voltage supply track 35 for control to signal transmission, and prevent attenuation of the signal transmission on which this supply voltage supply track 35 for control is overlapped through coupling capacitors 17 and 22 from communication circuits 16 and 21.

[0066] The I/O circuit of the strange demodulator circuits 50 and 51 of the interior-of-a-room side and outdoor side communication circuits 16 and 21 is a non-balanced circuit illustrated to (A) of drawing 4, and the explanation which overlaps since transfer of the control signal between the indoor control circuit 15 and the outdoor control circuit 16 is performed like the 1st example shown in drawing 1 is omitted. Moreover, since the same is said of other air-conditioning actuation, explanation is omitted.

[0067] According to the above examples, since an indoor unit 2 can obtain the supply voltage for control needed by the internal circuitry from an outdoor unit 3, it does not need to install the supply voltage generating means for control in this indoor unit 2, can reduce the circuit price of an indoor unit 2 and the volume, and weight, and makes easy small lightweight-ization of this indoor unit 2. Moreover, since the signal transmission of a control signal is superimposed on the supply voltage supply track 35 for control and is delivered and received, since it is not necessary to lay an exceptional communication link signal-line way, an installation activity is simplified, and there is effectiveness which can reduce activity costs and track prices. Especially such effectiveness is large in the so-called multi-air-conditioner system which combines one set of an outdoor unit, and two or more indoor units.

[0068] Drawing 15 is the block block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 7th example of this invention. In drawing 15, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 14 is an equivalent. This example is a configuration which receives a source power supply with an indoor unit 2 by the source-power-supply receiving end child 1, and supplies this to an outdoor unit 3 through the source-power-supply electrical-potential-difference supply track 4. The outdoor power circuit 19 of an outdoor unit 3 creates the supply voltage for control of a direct current required of this outdoor unit 3, and the supply voltage for control of a direct current required of an indoor unit 2, and it is constituted so that the supply voltage for an indoor unit 2 may be supplied to an indoor unit 2

through the supply voltage supply track 35 for control. Furthermore, this supply voltage supply track 35 for control is overlapped on the signal transmission delivered and received in each [outside the interior of a room] units 2 and 3 through coupling capacitors 17 and 22. The configuration which receives a source power supply with an outdoor unit 3 in this way is required in the house where the source-power-supply plug socket is not installed in the outdoors.

[0069] The explanation which overlaps since transfer and other actuation of the signal transmission in this 7th example are the same as that of the 6th example explained by drawing 14 is omitted.

[0070] According to this example, the same effectiveness as the 6th example is acquired, and the effectiveness which can be further installed in the house where the source-power-supply plug socket is not installed in the outdoors easily is acquired.

[0071] Drawing 16 is the block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 8th example which becomes this invention. In drawing 16, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 14 is an equivalent. This example forms one pair of choke coils 33a, 33b, 34a, and 34b inserted in the edge of the supply voltage supply track 35 for control which used two power-source lines in the interior of a room and outdoor units 2 and 3, and constitutes the supply voltage supply track 35 for control with the balanced line to transmission of signal transmission. The balanced I/O circuit shown in (B) of drawing 4 is used for the I/O circuit of the interior-of-a-room side and outdoor side communication circuits 16 and 21.

[0072] In this example, since transmission of signal transmission is made in the state of the balanced line, it cannot be easily influenced of the noise currently mixed in the DC-power-supply electrical potential difference of the supply voltage supply track 35 for control, and the reliable communication link of it is attained. The explanation which overlaps since other actuation in this example is the same as that of the example of drawing 14 is omitted.

[0073] Drawing 17 is the block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 9th example of this invention. In drawing 17, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 14 shows the equivalent, 36 is an interior-of-a-room side joint transformer, and 37 is an outdoor side joint transformer.

[0074] This example superimposes signal transmission on the supply voltage supply track 35 for control which supplies the supply voltage for control created with the outdoor unit 3 to an indoor unit 2 through the joint transformers 36 and 37. These joint transformers 36 and 37 are what coiled the enameled wire for example, around the easy ferrite core, and the primary coil and the secondary coil are carrying out electromagnetic-induction association. A primary coil is connected to communication circuits 16 and 21, and a secondary coil is inserted in the supply voltage supply track 35 for control. Although the example of illustration is inserted all over a non-grand siding way, even if it inserts it in a grand siding way, it is the same. Since the power-source load current of a direct current flows, the secondary coil of the joint transformers 36 and 37 connected to the supply voltage supply track 35 for control is coiled by the thick line of a wire size so that the resistance to ***** may decrease. On the other hand, since a primary coil is that to which only signal transmission flows, a wire size may be thin. Moreover, it is desirable to choose the quality of the material or to cope with to prepare a gap in a magnetic path etc. so that a ferrite core may not carry out magnetic saturation by the power-source load current of a direct current.

[0075] In order to reduce noises, such as ripple fluctuation, the power-source input edge of each circuit in an indoor unit 2 and the power-outlet edge of the outdoor power circuit 19 in an outdoor unit 3 connect the capacitor of a big capacity between a power supply terminal and a power-source grand terminal, and are designing the impedance to an alternating-voltage (pulsation) component low. For this reason, although it has strong resistance to a direct-current-voltage component between a power supply terminal and a power-source grand terminal, it will be in a short circuit condition to the alternating voltage component more than a certain frequency (several 10Hz). Therefore, to signal transmission, as shown in drawing 18, a circuit condition equivalent to what made opposite connection is only acquired [coils / secondary] through the joint transformers 36 and 37 in each [outside the interior of a room]

communication circuits 16 and 21. The modulating-signal current from the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16 flows to the primary coil of the interior-of-a-room side joint transformer 36, and the current by the electrical potential difference by which induction was carried out to the secondary coil based on this current flows the supply voltage supply track 35 for control. And this current flows to the secondary coil of the outdoor side joint transformer 37, and the electrical potential difference by which induction was carried out to that primary coil is inputted into the demodulator circuit of the outdoor side communication circuit 21. The same is said of this reverse signal communication link.

[0076] Any of the non-balanced circuit shown in drawing 4 or a balanced circuit are sufficient as the I/O circuit of communication circuits 16 and 21. This is because the supply voltage supply track 35 for control is the balanced line equivalent to signal transmission, as shown in drawing 18.

[0077] In such an equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room, when a source-power-supply electrical-potential-difference supply track is incorrect-connected to the supply voltage supply track for control by the installation activity, in the 6th – the 8th example which were shown in drawing 14 – drawing 16, there is a possibility that it may be destroyed on a source-power-supply electrical potential difference, and communication circuits 16 and 21 may also be continuously destroyed by coupling capacitors 17 and 22. It will become expensive if the coupling capacitors 17 and 22 with the withstand voltage more than a source-power-supply electrical potential difference are used. On the other hand, the joint transformers 36 and 37 can obtain cheaply what has high withstand voltage, even if such incorrect connection occurs according to this example, most source-power-supply electrical potential differences require them between the primary coil of the joint transformers 36 and 37, and a secondary coil, and they do not have a possibility of overvoltage acting on the I/O edge of communication circuits 16 and 21, and destroying this.

[0078] According to this example, since the supply voltage for control is supplied from an outdoor unit 3, an indoor unit 2 does not need to install the supply voltage generating circuit for control in this indoor unit 2, it can reduce that circuit price and the volume, and weight, and makes easy small lightweight-ization of this indoor unit 2. Moreover, since signal transmission is superimposed and transmitted to the supply voltage supply track 35 for control, it is not necessary to lay an exceptional communication link signal line, and the effectiveness which an installation activity is simplified and can reduce activity costs and track prices is acquired. Especially such effectiveness is large in the so-called multi-air-conditioner system which combines one set of an outdoor unit, and two or more indoor units.

[0079] Furthermore, two-way communication becomes possible, without changing a carrier frequency by transmission and reception, if a joint transformer is changed into the hybrid transformer (balanced transformer) used with a dial-up line.

[0080] Drawing 19 is the block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 10th example of this invention which enabled the bidirectional control signal communication link using the hybrid transformer. In drawing 19, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 17 is an equivalent, 38 is an interior-of-a-room side hybrid transformer, and 39 is an outdoor side hybrid transformer. This example superimposes the signal transmission between each [outside the interior of a room] unit 2, and 3 on the supply voltage supply track 35 for control which supplies the supply voltage for control created with the outdoor unit 3 to an indoor unit 2 through hybrid transformers 38 and 39, and enables a bidirectional control signal communication link between both the units 2 and 3.

[0081] Drawing 20 shows an example in the case of connecting the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16 to the supply voltage supply track 35 for control using a hybrid transformer 38. In drawing 20, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 2 is an equivalent, and, as for a signal transmission output terminal and 59, 58 is [a signal transmission input terminal and 38] interior-of-a-room side hybrid transformers. The I/O section of a modulation circuit 50 and a demodulator circuit 51 consists of non-balanced circuits, and the signal transmission input/output terminal is divided into the signal transmission

input terminal 58 and the communication link output terminal 59. The outgoing end of a modulation circuit 50 is connected to the outer edge point a of the primary coil of a hybrid transformer 38 through output resistance and the signal transmission output terminal 58, termination is carried out by input resistance through the signal transmission input terminal 59, it connects with the input edge of a demodulator circuit 51, and the outer edge point b of another side of the primary coil of a hybrid transformer 38 connects the middle point c of the primary coil of a hybrid transformer 38 to the power-source grand terminal 53 through the signal transmission grand terminal 57. In addition, output resistance and input resistance are for making consistency have with the line impedance in the communication link signal frequency of the supply voltage supply track 35 for control, and if the output impedance of a modulation circuit 50 and the input impedance of a demodulator circuit 51 have consistency with the line impedance, there will be especially no need.

[0082] According to this example, a high-speed bidirectional control signal communication link is attained among each [outside the interior of a room] units 2 and 3. Moreover, since the indoor unit 2 has obtained the supply voltage for control from the outdoor unit 3, it is not necessary to install the supply voltage generating circuit for control in this indoor unit 2, and since a circuit price and the volume, and weight are reducible, small lightweight-ization of an indoor unit 2 becomes easy. And since the supply voltage supply track 35 for control is used for transfer of a control signal, it becomes unnecessary, therefore an installation activity is simplified, and a new exceptional communication link signal-line way can reduce activity costs and track prices. Especially such effectiveness is large in the so-called multi-air-conditioner system which combines one set of an outdoor unit, and two or more indoor units.

[0083] Drawing 21 is the block diagram of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which is the 11th example of this invention. In drawing 21, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 17 is an equivalent. This example is a configuration which forms the source-power-supply receiving end child 1 in an indoor unit 2, receives a source power supply, and supplies this to an outdoor unit 3 through the source-power-supply electrical-potential-difference supply track 4. And from now on, the supply voltage for control of a required direct current will be created with an indoor unit 2 in the outdoor power circuit 19 of an outdoor unit 3, and while supplying this to an indoor unit 2 on the supply voltage supply track 35 for control, the signal transmission between the unit 2 outside the interior of a room and 3 is superimposed on this supply track 35 through the joint transformers 36 and 37. It is a suitable power-source configuration for application in the house which does not have a source-power-supply plug socket in the outdoors. The explanation which overlaps since transmission and other actuation of the signal transmission in this example are the same as that of the 9th example explained with reference to drawing 17 is omitted.

[0084] according to this example, an indoor unit 2 should float supply of the supply voltage for control of a direct current from an outdoor unit 3 -- it is not necessary to establish the supply voltage generating means for control in this indoor unit 2 by that of **, a circuit price and the volume, and weight can be reduced, and small lightweight-ization of an indoor unit 2 is made easy. Moreover, as well as the 9th example when there is incorrect connection which mixed up the source-power-supply electrical-potential-difference supply track 4 and the supply voltage supply track 35 for control, communication circuits 16 and 21 can be protected from destruction by overvoltage.

[0085] Drawing 22 is the block diagram of other equation-which-is-separable air conditioners outside the interior of a room which are the 12th example of this invention. In drawing 22, the configuration means which attached the same sign as drawing 21 is an equivalent, and 40 is a voltage stabilizer. This example is a configuration which receives a source power supply by indoor YU 2 TTO 2, and supplies this to an outdoor unit 3 through the source-power-supply electrical-potential-difference supply track 4. And from now on, the supply voltage for control of a required direct current will be created with an indoor unit 2 in the outdoor power circuit 19 of an outdoor unit 3, and while supplying this to an indoor unit 2 using the supply voltage supply track 35 for control, the signal transmission between the unit 2 outside the interior of a room and 3 is superimposed on this supply track 35 through the joint transformers 36 and 37. And

further, the outdoor power circuit 19 is considered as the configuration which carries out adjustable [of the supply voltage for control of the direct current supplied to an indoor unit 2] based on the control signal from the outdoor control circuit 20, and controls the rotational speed of the indoor electric blower 13 by changing this electrical potential difference.

[0086] The indoor electric blower 13 which makes a direct current motor a driving source can change the amount of ventilation, the rotational speed 12, i.e., indoor heat exchanger, by changing the direct current voltage impressed to it.

[0087] The rotational speed of this blower is changed by the indoor blower control circuit 18 mentioned above consisting of DC-DC converters etc., changing the fixed supply voltage for control to which electric power is supplied, and giving the indoor electric blower 13. This control is performed based on the control command by the control signal given from the indoor control circuit 15. The power consumption of the indoor electric blower 13 is about 30W, and area also with the big radiator of the circuit element used since the current capacity in which the DC-DC converter which controls this also ****ed is required is needed. For this reason, the indoor blower control circuit 18 needed big installation space.

[0088] Then, the magnitude of the supply voltage for control created to indoor units is controlled by this example in the outdoor power circuit 19 of an outdoor unit 3 according to the rotational speed of which it is required by the indoor electric blower 23, and installation of an indoor blower control circuit is omitted to an indoor unit 2 by supplying this to an indoor unit 2 through the supply voltage supply track 35 for control.

[0089] The indoor blower roll control signal from the indoor control circuit 15 is sent to the outdoor control circuit 20 through the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16, the supply voltage supply track 35 for control, and the outdoor side communication circuit 21. And the outdoor control circuit 20 controls the magnitude of the supply voltage for control for indoor unit 2 which the outdoor power circuit 19 creates based on this indoor blower roll control signal, changes the electrical potential difference of the supply voltage supply track 35 for control, and controls the rotational speed of the indoor electric blower 13.

[0090] In order to create the fixed supply voltage for operating the indoor control circuit 15, the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit 16, and other circuits, a voltage stabilizer 40 functions. A voltage stabilizer 40 inputs the electrical potential difference of the supply voltage supply track 35 for control where the magnitude of an electrical potential difference is changed, adjusts this to constant value, and supplies it to each. In addition, since there is very little consumed electric current of these circuits, since small current capacity is sufficient for a voltage stabilizer 40, it can be made to small.

[0091] The source-power-supply receiving end child 1 in this example can also prepare in an outdoor unit 3 side.

[0092] According to this example, it makes it easy to be able to delete the indoor blower control circuit 18 and to form an indoor unit 2 into small lightweight further.

[0093]

[Effect of the Invention] Since it can decrease the number of communication link signal lines of dedication since one invention uses refrigerant piping as a communication link signal line, therefore an installation activity is simplified, and activity costs and a track price reduce it and the source-power-supply line of the high voltage is not used, the effectiveness that it is not necessary to give a high-voltage cutoff function to means of communications is acquired.

[0094] Moreover, since other invention changes a control signal into the gestalt of an ultrasonic signal, makes refrigerant piping spread and was delivered and received, the path cord according to rank for the communication link signal-line way which ties an indoor unit and an outdoor unit becomes unnecessary, both the problems of incorrect connection are lost and the effectiveness which the installation activity of an air conditioner simplifies that activity costs and a track price can be reduced is acquired.

[0095] Furthermore, since other invention is reducing the number of path cords of the communication link signal-line way of dedication which ties an indoor unit and an outdoor unit as a control signal is delivered and received using the supply voltage supply track for control Since the installation activity of an air conditioner is simplified, and activity costs and a track price are

reduced and the indoor unit received supply of the supply voltage for control from the outdoor unit, the power unit for control according to rank becomes unnecessary, and the effectiveness which can mitigate the failure of a miniaturization is acquired.

[0096] Furthermore, since the air conditioner equipped with the above descriptions is enabled to receive other invention from an indoor power supply terminal, the effectiveness which can make connection with a source power supply easy is acquired.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the block diagram showing the 1st example of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the electric block diagram showing the connection relation of the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit and communication link signal-line way in the 1st example shown in drawing 1.

[Drawing 3] It is the timing chart of a control signal and signal transmission.

[Drawing 4] It is the electrical installation Fig. showing the connection relation between the I/O circuit of a strange demodulator circuit, and a communication link signal-line way, and (A) is a non-balancing I/O circuit and (B) is a balanced I/O circuit.

[Drawing 5] It is the block diagram showing the 2nd example of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 6] It is the electric block diagram showing the connection relation of the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit and communication link signal-line way in the 2nd example shown in drawing 5.

[Drawing 7] It is the block diagram showing the 3rd example of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 8] It is the electric block diagram showing the connection relation of the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit and communication link signal-line way in the 3rd example shown in drawing 7.

[Drawing 9] It is the block diagram showing the 4th example of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 10] It is the electric block diagram showing the connection relation of the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit and communication link signal-line way in the 4th example shown in drawing 9.

[Drawing 11] It is the block diagram showing the 5th example of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 12] It is the electric block diagram showing the connection relation of the interior-of-a-room side communication circuit and communication link signal-line way in the 5th example shown in drawing 11.

[Drawing 13] It is the timing chart of a control signal, DTMF, and an ultrasonic signal.

[Drawing 14] It is the block diagram showing the 6th example of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 15] It is the block diagram showing the 7th example of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 16] It is the block diagram showing the 8th example of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 17] It is the block diagram showing the 9th example of the equation-which-is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 18] It is the representative circuit schematic of the communication link signal-transmission system in the 9th example shown in drawing 18.

[Drawing 19] It is the block diagram showing the 10th example of the equation—which—is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 20] It is the electric block diagram showing the connection relation between an interior-of-a-room side communication circuit and a communication link signal-line way in the 10th example shown in drawing 19 .

[Drawing 21] It is the block diagram showing the 11th example of the equation—which—is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Drawing 22] It is the block diagram showing the 12th example of the equation—which—is-separable air conditioner outside the interior of a room which becomes this invention.

[Description of Notations]

1 [-- Source-power-supply electrical-potential-difference supply track,] -- A source-power-supply receiving end child, 2 -- An indoor unit, 3 -- An outdoor unit, 4 5 [-- Interior-of-a-room side communication circuit,] -- A communication link signal line, 6 -- Refrigerant piping, 15 -- An indoor control circuit, 16 17 -- An interior-of-a-room side coupling capacitor, 20 -- An indoor control circuit, 21 -- Outdoor side communication circuit, 22 -- An outdoor side coupling capacitor, 28 -- An interior-of-a-room side joint transformer, 29 -- Outdoor side joint transformer, 30 -- An interior-of-a-room side supersonic-wave transducer, 31 -- Outdoor side supersonic-wave transducer, 33 -- An interior-of-a-room side choke coil, 34 -- An outdoor side choke coil, 35 -- The supply voltage supply track for control, 36 -- An interior-of-a-room side joint transformer, 37 -- An outdoor side joint transformer, 38 -- Interior-of-a-room side hybrid transformer, 39 [-- A demodulator circuit, 61 / -- A carrier signal generating circuit, 62 / -- FM modulation circuit, 64 / -- A DTMF signal generating circuit, 67 / -- FM demodulator circuit, 66 / -- DTMF signal detector.] -- An outdoor side hybrid transformer, 40 -- A voltage stabilizer, 50 -- A modulation circuit, 51

[Translation done.]

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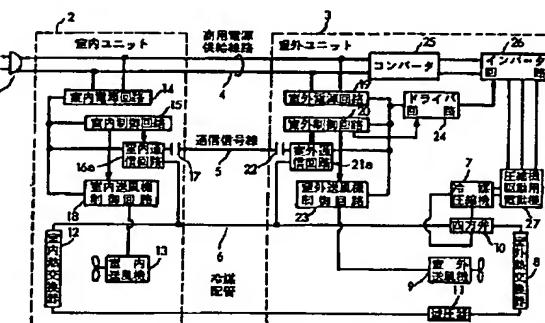
(54)【発明の名称】 空気調和機

(57)【要約】

【目的】室内外分離形空気調和機の室内外各ユニット間の通信信号線を削減することにより据付け作業の簡略化と作業費用及び線路価格の低減を図る。

【構成】1本の通信信号線5と冷媒配管6で通信信号線路を形成し、これにコンデンサ17, 22あるいは結合トランジスタ28, 29を介して通信回路16, 21を接続し、制御信号通信を行う。または、冷媒配管6に音響結合した超音波トランジスタ30, 31を設け、これに通信回路16, 21を接続して超音波信号の配管伝播で制御信号の通信を行う。冷媒配管6の活用により通信信号線を削減できる。

図 1



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニットの前記熱交換手段間を接続する導電性の冷媒配管及び前記通信手段間を接続する信号線路とを備えた空気調和機において、

前記各ユニットにおける通信手段は、前記各ユニット間を結ぶ1本の通信信号線と前記冷媒配管とを信号線路として使用して制御信号を授受するようにしたことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項2】請求項1において、前記各ユニットの通信手段は、結合コンデンサを介して前記信号線路に接続したことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項3】請求項1において、前記各ユニットの通信手段は、結合トランスを介して前記信号線路に接続したことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項4】請求項1において、前記各ユニットの通信手段は、制御信号を変調した後に前記通信線路を介して授受することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項5】請求項4において、前記各ユニットの通信手段は、制御信号をキャリア変調することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項6】室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニットの前記熱交換手段間を接続する冷媒配管とを備えた空気調和機において、

前記各ユニットにおける通信手段は、制御信号を超音波信号に電気音響変換して前記冷媒配管を介して授受する電気音響変換手段を備えたことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項7】請求項6において、前記電気音響変換手段は、電気信号と超音波信号を相互変換する変換器を備えたことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項8】請求項6において、前記通信手段は、前記制御信号を変調した後に前記電気音響変換手段で音響信号に変換して前記冷媒配管に伝送することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項9】請求項6において、前記通信手段は、前記制御信号を多重周波数信号に変換し、これを変調した後に前記電気音響変換手段で音響信号に変換して前記冷媒配管に伝送することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項10】請求項8または9において、前記通信手段は、前記制御信号を周波数変調することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項11】請求項9において、前記多重周波数信号がDTMF信号であることを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項12】請求項8または9において、前記通信手段は、各音響信号の間に所定の時間を置いて送信するこ

とを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項13】室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段と商用電源を受電する受電回路と受電した商用電圧を整流して制御用電源電圧を生成する制御用電源回路とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続して前記制御用電源回路及び室内側通信手段に供給する制御用電源電圧供給線路と、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続する冷媒配管とを有する空気調和機において、

前記室内外側各通信手段は、前記制御用電源電圧供給線路を介して制御信号を授受することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項14】請求項13において、前記室内外各ユニットはそれぞれチョークコイルと結合コンデンサを備え、室外ユニットは前記制御用電源回路で作成した制御用電源電圧を前記チョークコイルを介して前記制御用電源電圧供給線路に供給し、室内ユニットは前記制御用電源電圧供給線路からの直流電源電圧を前記チョークコイルを介して該ユニット内の制御回路に供給すると共に前記各通信手段は前記各結合コンデンサを介して前記各チョークコイルの外側で前記制御用電源電圧供給線路と接続したことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項15】請求項13において、前記室内外各ユニットは結合トランスを備え、室外ユニットは前記制御用電源回路で作成した制御用電源電圧を前記結合トランスを介して前記制御用電源電圧供給線路に供給し、室内ユニットは前記制御用電源電圧供給線路からの直流電源電圧を前記結合トランスを介して該ユニット内の制御回路に供給すると共に前記各通信手段は前記各結合トランスを介して前記制御用電源電圧供給線路に接続されることを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項16】請求項15において、前記各結合トランスはハイブリッドトランスであることを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項17】請求項13において、前記各通信手段は、前記制御信号を変調した後に前記制御用電源電圧供給線路に伝送することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項18】請求項17において、前記各通信手段は、制御信号をキャリア変調することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項19】請求項13において、前記制御用電源回路は前記制御信号に基づいて制御されて前記制御用電源電圧供給線路に供給する制御用電源電圧を変化させることを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項20】請求項19において、前記室内ユニットは前記制御用電源電圧を一定電圧に調整して前記室内制御回路と室内側通信手段に供給する定電圧回路を備え、前記室内熱交換手段は、前記制御用電源電圧で付勢され

て電圧値に応じた回転速度で回転する電動送風機を備えたことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項21】室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段と商用電源電圧を整流して制御用電源電圧を生成する制御用電源回路とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続して前記制御用電源回路が生成した制御用電源電圧を前記室内制御回路及び室内側通信手段に供給する制御用電源電圧供給線路と、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続する冷媒配管とを有する空気調和機において、前記室内ユニットは商用電源を受電して前記室内ユニットに供給する受電回路を備え、前記室内外側各通信手段は前記制御用電源電圧供給線路を介して制御信号を授受することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は室内外分離形の空気調和機に係り、特に分離した室外ユニットと室内ユニットが信号線路を介して制御信号を授受しながら空気調和機を行う空気調和機に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】従来の室内外分離形の空気調和機は、例えば特公平4-81707号公報あるいは特開平3-28650号公報に記載されているように、室内ユニットで商用電源を受電しており、室内ユニットと室外ユニットの間を接続する電気線路として、商用電源を供給する2本の電源供給線路と制御信号を伝送する2本の通信信号線路の2組（計4本の接続線）を備える。更に、室内外ユニット間に冷凍サイクルの冷媒流路を形成する2本の冷媒配管を備える。

【0003】室内外ユニット間の電気的な接続線数を削減するために、特開平4-36533号公報に記載された室内外分離型の空気調和機は、商用電源供給用の接続線路に制御信号を重畳して伝送することにより、専用の通信信号線路を省略することを提案している。

【0004】また、例えば特開平4-73543号公報に記載された室内外分離形の空気調和機は、室外ユニットで商用電源を受電し、ここで商用電源を直流の制御用電源電圧に変換してから制御用電源電圧供給用の接続線路にて室内ユニットに供給すると共に該接続線路に商用電源同期信号を重畳して室内ユニットに伝送することを提案している。

【0005】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながらこのような従来の空気調和機は、室内外ユニット間を電気的に接続するため商用電源供給線路と通信信号線路の2組（計4本）が必要であり、空気調和機の据付け作業の煩雑さ、作業費用および線路材料価格の点で問題がある。

特に、複数台の室内ユニットと1台の室外ユニットで空

気調和機を構成する場合には大きな問題になる。また、室内外各ユニットは、それそれが交流の商用電源電圧を直流の制御用電源電圧に変換するために電源変換手段が必要であり、この電源変換手段は、通常、降圧トランジスタ、整流器及び平滑コンデンサ等が必要なことから、室内ユニットの小形化の障害になっている。

【0006】また、室内外ユニット間の商用電源供給用の接続線路を制御信号の授受に利用しようとすると、商用電源系と制御系の間の大きな電位差を確実に遮断することが必要であり、誤配線や遮断部品の劣化等により商用電源電圧が制御系に漏れると制御系が破壊される危険がある。更に、制御信号が商用電源線路に漏出するのを防止し、あるいは逆に商用電源線路に混入している雑音が制御信号に影響するのを防止するために、受電場所に高価なブロッキングフィルタが必要となる。更にまた、高耐圧の電気部品を使用した信号授受手段が必要となる。しかも室内外各ユニットは、制御用電源電圧を得るための電源変換手段を必要とする。

【0007】更にまた、室外ユニットで商用電源を受電して制御用電源電圧に変換してから室内ユニットに供給する従来装置は、制御信号の伝送には独立した専用の通信信号線路を用いており、結局、制御用電源供給線路と通信信号線路の2組（計4本）の電気接続線が必要となり、据付け作業の煩雑さ、作業費用及び線路材料価格の観点での問題を残している。

【0008】従って、本発明の第1の目的は、室内外分離形空気調和機における室内ユニットと室外ユニットを結ぶ通信信号線路の接続線数を削減して空気調和機の据付け作業を簡略化することにより作業費用および線路価格を低減すると共に通信手段における高電圧遮断機能を不要にすることにある。

【0009】本発明の第2の目的は、室内外分離形空気調和機における室内ユニットと室外ユニットを結ぶ通信信号線路のための格別の接続線を不要として空気調和機の据付け作業を簡略化する共に誤接続の問題をなくし、作業費用及び線路価格を低減することにある。

【0010】本発明の第3の目的は、室内外分離形空気調和機における室内ユニットと室外ユニットを結ぶ通信信号線路の接続線数を削減して空気調和機の据付け作業を簡略化することにより作業費用および線路価格を低減すると共に室内ユニットの小形化の障害を軽減することにある。

【0011】本発明の第4の目的は、室内外分離形空気調和機における室内ユニットと室外ユニットを結ぶ通信信号線路の接続線数を削減して空気調和機の据付け作業を簡略化することにより作業費用および線路価格を低減すると共に室内ユニットの小形化の障害を軽減し、更には商用電源に接続し易くすることにある。

【0012】

【課題を解決するための手段】第1の発明は、室外熱交

換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニットの前記熱交換手段間を接続する導電性の冷媒配管及び前記通信手段間を接続する信号線路とを備えた空気調和機において、前記各ユニットにおける通信手段は、前記各ユニット間を結ぶ1本の通信信号線と前記冷媒配管とを信号線路として使用して制御信号を授受するようにしたことを特徴とする。

【0013】第2の発明は、室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニットの前記熱交換手段間を接続する冷媒配管とを備えた空気調和機において、前記各ユニットにおける通信手段は、制御信号を超音波信号に電気音響変換して前記冷媒配管を介して授受する電気音響変換手段を備えたことを特徴とする。

【0014】第3の発明は、室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段と商用電源を受電する受電回路と受電した商用電圧を整流して制御用電源電圧を生成する制御用電源回路とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続して前記制御用電源回路が生成した制御用電源電圧を前記室内制御回路及び室内側通信手段に供給する制御用電源電圧供給線路と、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続する冷媒配管とを有する空気調和機において、前記室内外側各通信手段は、前記制御用電源電圧供給線路を介して制御信号を授受することを特徴とする。

【0015】そして第4の発明は、室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段と商用電源電圧を整流して制御用電源電圧を生成する制御用電源回路とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続して前記制御用電源回路が生成した制御用電源電圧を前記室内制御回路及び室内側通信手段に供給する制御用電源電圧供給線路と、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続する冷媒配管とを有する空気調和機において、前記室内ユニットは商用電源を受電して前記室内ユニットに供給する受電回路を備え、前記室内外側各通信手段は前記制御用電源電圧供給線路を介して制御信号を授受することを特徴とする。

【0016】

【作用】第1の発明において、冷媒配管が通信信号線として機能するので専用の通信信号線数が減少し、据付け作業が簡略化して作業費用及び線路価格が低減する。また、高電圧の商用電源線を利用していないので通信手段に高電圧遮断機能をもたせる必要がない。

【0017】第2の発明において、通信手段は、制御信号を超音波信号の形態に変換して冷媒配管を伝播させて

授受するので、室内ユニットと室外ユニットを結ぶ通信信号線路のための格別の接続線を不要とし、空気調和機の据付け作業を簡略化する共に誤接続の問題をなくし、作業費用及び線路価格を低減する。

【0018】第3の発明において、室内外各ユニットの通信手段は、制御用電源電圧供給線路を利用して制御信号を授受するので室内ユニットと室外ユニットを結ぶ専用の通信信号線路の接続線数を削減して空気調和機の据付け作業を簡略化することにより作業費用および線路価格を低減することができ、また、室内ユニットは室外ユニットから制御用電源電圧の供給を受けるので格別の制御用電源装置が不要となり、小形化の障害を軽減することができる。

【0019】そして第4の発明において、受電回路は、以上のような特徴を備えた空気調和機が室内の電源端子から受電することを可能とするので、商用電源への接続を容易にする。

【0020】

【実施例】以下、本発明の実施例を図面を参照して説明する。

【0021】図1は、本発明の第1の実施例である室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図1において、1は差込プラグ等の商用電源受電端子、2は室内ユニット、3は室外ユニット、4は商用電源供給線路、5は通信信号線、6は冷媒配管である。室内に設置される室内ユニット2と室外に設置される室外ユニット3は、2本の商用電源供給線路4、1本の通信信号線5、2本の冷媒配管6で接続されて室内外分離形空気調和機を構成する。

【0022】7は冷媒圧縮機、8は室外熱交換器、9は室外電動送風機、10は四方弁、11は減圧器でこれらは室外ユニット3内に設けられ、12は室内熱交換器、13は室内電動送風機でこれらは室内ユニット2内に設けられ、これらは冷媒配管6と共に冷凍サイクルを構成している。

【0023】14は室内電源回路、15は室内制御回路、16aは室内側通信回路、17は室内側結合コンデンサ、18は室内送風機制御回路で、これらは室内ユニット2内に設置される。19は室外電源回路、20は室外制御回路、21aは室外側通信回路、22は室外側結合コンデンサ、23は室外送風機制御回路、24はドライバ回路、25はコンバータ、26はインバータ回路、27は圧縮機駆動用電動機で、これらは室外ユニット3内に設置される。

【0024】商用電源受電端子1で受電した商用電源電圧は、室内ユニット2の室内電源回路14にて該室内ユニット2内で必要な直流の制御用電源電圧に変換され、室内制御回路15、室内側通信回路16a及び室内送風機制御回路18に供給される。また、この商用電源電圧は商用電源供給線路4を介して室外ユニット3に供給さ

れる。室外ユニット3は、この商用電源電圧を室外電源回路19にて該室外ユニット3内で必要な直流の制御用電源電圧に変換し、室外制御回路20、室外側通信回路21a、室外送風機制御回路23及びドライバ回路24に供給する。更に、この商用電源電圧は、ダイオードブリッジとコンデンサで構成されるコンバータ25で直流電圧に変換され、6個のパワートランジスタで構成されるインバータ回路26で三相電圧に変換されて圧縮機駆動用電動機27に供給される。圧縮機駆動用電動機27の回転速度はインバータ回路26から供給される三相電圧の周波数を変えることによって変化し、この三相電圧の周波数は、ドライバ回路24が作成するインバータ回路26のパワートランジスタのベース駆動信号の周期を室外制御回路20から与えられる制御信号に基づいて変えることにより制御される。

【0025】室内及び室外電源回路14、19は、電源トランスとダイオードブリッジ等で構成され、商用電源回路とは絶縁される。また、ドライバ回路24はフォトカブラ等を介してベース駆動信号を出力するように構成され、商用電源回路とは絶縁されていないインバータ回路26と室外制御回路20の間を絶縁している。

【0026】室内及び室外制御回路15、20はマイクロコンピュータを中心にして構成され、室内外各ユニット2、3内の各回路を制御する制御信号を作成し、且つ相互に通信回路16a、21aを介して制御信号の授受を行って室内外各ユニット2、3の動作を整合させる制御を行う。

【0027】室内及び室外送風機制御回路18、23はDC-D Cコンバータ等で構成され、室内及び室外制御回路15、20からの制御信号に基づいて室内及び室外電動送風機9、13の直流電動機に与える電圧の大きさを変化させてその回転速度を変え、室内及び室外熱交換器8、12への通風量を制御する。

【0028】次に、本発明の主眼である室内外各ユニット2、3の間の制御信号の授受を行う通信手段を詳細に説明する。室内及び室外側通信回路16a、21aは、変調回路と復調回路を備え、1本の通信信号線5と主に銅管で作られる冷媒配管6とで構成される通信信号線路に室内及び室外側結合コンデンサ17、22を介して接続され、室内ユニット2と室外ユニット3の間で制御信号の送受を行う。

【0029】図2は、室内側通信回路16aの構成と通信信号線路を構成する通信信号線5及び冷媒配管6への接続の一実施例を示している。図2において、50aは変調回路、51aは復調回路、52は電源端子、53は電源グランド端子、54は制御信号入力端子、55は制御信号出力端子、56は通信信号入出力端子、57は通信信号グランド端子である。

【0030】この室内側通信回路16aは、室内電源回路14から電源端子52と電源グランド端子53の間に

10 20 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300 310 320 330 340 350 360 370 380 390 400 410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560 570 580 590 600 610 620 630 640 650 660 670 680 690 700 710 720 730 740 750 760 770 780 790 800 810 820 830 840 850 860 870 880 890 900 910 920 930 940 950 960 970 980 990 1000 1010 1020 1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200 1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260 1270 1280 1290 1300 1310 1320 1330 1340 1350 1360 1370 1380 1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440 1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500 1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 1560 1570 1580 1590 1600 1610 1620 1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680 1690 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740 1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040 2050 2060 2070 2080 2090 2100 2110 2120 2130 2140 2150 2160 2170 2180 2190 2200 2210 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4174 4175 4176 4177 4178 4178 4179 4179 4180 4181 4182 4183 4184

(2) 送信と受信のキャリア周波数を異ならせることが必要である等回路構成が複雑となるからである。また、変調方式は、前述したキャリア変調に限らず他のFM変調等へ変形することが可能である。

【0037】以上の実施例によれば、冷媒配管6が1本の通信信号線として機能するので、室内ユニット2と室外ユニット3の間を接続する電気接続線は、2本の商用電源供給線路4と1本の通信信号線5の計3本でよく、据付け作業が簡略化して作業費用及び線路価格が低減する。また、制御信号の授受に高電圧の商用電源供給線を利用していないので通信回路16a, 21aに高電圧遮断機能をもたせる必要がない。

【0038】図5は、本発明の第2の実施例である室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図5において、図1と同一符号を付した構成手段はこれと等価物である。この実施例は、室内及び室外側通信回路16b, 21bが平衡入出力回路を採用した変調及び復調回路50b, 51bを備えたもので、通信信号線5と冷媒配管6を平衡通信線路とし、これを使用して制御信号の授受を行うように構成されている。

【0039】図6は、室内側通信回路16bの構成と通信信号線路を構成する通信信号線5及び冷媒配管6への接続の他の実施例を示している。図6において、図2と同一符号を付した構成手段はこれと等価物である。

【0040】この実施例における変調回路50b及び復調回路51bの出力及び入力端は、図4の(B)に示す平衡入出力回路を採用しており、平衡入出力端の片方は通信信号入出力端子56に接続され、他の片方は通信信号グランド端子57に接続される。そして通信信号入出力端子56と通信信号グランド端子57は、それぞれが結合コンデンサ17a, 17bを介して通信信号線5または冷媒配管6に接続される。

【0041】このように通信信号線路を平衡線路することにより、通信信号線5と冷媒配管6に共通して重畠される雑音(コモンモードノイズと呼ばれる)妨害に対して強い抵抗力をもった通信が可能となる。他の動作は、第1の実施例と同様であるので詳細な説明を省略する。

【0042】図7は、本発明の第3の実施例である室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図7において、図1と同一符号を付した構成手段はこれと等価物であり、28は室内側結合トランス、29は室外側結合トランスである。この実施例は、室内及び室外側通信回路16a, 21aの入出力端を結合トランス28, 29を介して通信信号線5と冷媒配管6に接続したもので、これを使用して室内外各ユニット2, 3の間で制御信号の授受を行うようにしたものである。

【0043】図8は、室内側通信回路16aの構成と通信信号線路を構成する通信信号線5及び冷媒配管6への接続の他の実施例を示している。図8において、図2と

同一符号を付した構成手段はこれと等価物である。

【0044】この実施例における変調回路50a及び復調回路51aの出力及び入力端は、図4の(A)に示した非平衡入出力回路を採用しており、非平衡入出力端は通信信号入出力端子56に接続され、回路のグランドは通信信号グランド端子57及び電源グランド端子53に接続される。そして通信信号入出力端子56と通信信号グランド端子57は、それぞれ結合トランス28を介して通信信号線5と冷媒配管6に接続されている。

【0045】一般に、コンデンサの耐電圧はトランスの耐電圧に比較して低いので、図1及び図5に示す実施例では、商用電源供給線路4と通信信号線5を間違えて接続した場合には、結合コンデンサ17, 22に商用電源電圧が印加されて絶縁破壊が生じる恐れがある。結合コンデンサが破壊されれば、商用電源電圧が室内外側通信回路16a, 16b, 21a, 21bに漏れてこれらも引き続いて破壊されることになる。しかしながら、結合トランス17, 22は、一般に、1次巻線と2次巻線の間の耐電圧を大きくとることが容易であり、特殊な処理をすることなく数千ボルトの耐電圧が得られる。従って、普通の結合トランスを使用した構成で前述のような誤接続が行われてもでも商用電源電圧が漏れて通信回路が破壊されることはない。他の動作は第1の実施例と同様であるので、詳細な説明を省略する。

【0046】図9は、本発明の第4の実施例である室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図9において、図7と同一符号を付した構成手段はこれと等価物である。この実施例は、平衡入出力回路を採用した変調及び復調回路50b, 51bを備えた室内及び室外側通信回路16b, 21bを使用したもので、通信信号線5と冷媒配管6を平衡通信線路として使用して制御信号を授受するようにしたものである。

【0047】図10は、室内側通信回路16bの構成と通信信号線路を構成する通信信号線5及び冷媒配管6への接続の他の実施例を示している。図10において、図8と同一符号を付した構成手段はこれと等価物である。変調回路50b及び復調回路51bの出力及び入力部は、図4の(B)に示した平衡入出力回路を採用しており、平衡入出力端の片方は通信信号入出力端子56に接続され、他の片方は通信信号グランド端子57に接続されている。そして通信信号入出力端子56と通信信号グランド端子57は、それぞれ結合トランス28を介して通信信号線5と冷媒配管6に接続されている。

【0048】このように通信信号線路を平衡線路することにより、図7に示した第3の実施例に比べて、通信信号線5と冷媒配管6に共通して重畠される雑音妨害に対して強い抵抗力をもった通信が可能となる。他の動作は、第1の実施例と同様であるので説明を省略する。

【0049】なお、前述した第1～第4の各実施例における商用電源受電端子1は、室外ユニット3から導出し

て室内側で受電するようすることもできる。

【0050】以上に説明した第1の発明になる各室内外分離形空気調和機によれば、室内外ユニット間の電気接続線を減らすことができるので、据付け作業が簡略化して作業費用及び線路価格が低減する。また、制御信号の授受に高電圧の商用電源供給線を利用してないので通信回路に高電圧遮断機能をもたせる必要がない。

【0051】図11は、本発明の第5の実施例である室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図11において、図1と同一符号を付した構成手段はこれと等価物である。この実施例は、室内外各ユニット2、3における各通信手段が制御信号を超音波信号の形態で冷媒配管6を介して授受するために該冷媒配管6と音響結合する電気音響変換器として室内側超音波トランスジューサ30と室外側超音波トランスジューサ31を備える。この室外側各超音波トランスジューサ30、31は、それぞれ室内ユニット2及び室外ユニット3に引き込まれた冷媒配管6に音響結合されている。各超音波トランスジューサ30、31は、制御信号を変復調する通信回路16、21に接続され、該通信回路内の変調回路の出力信号を超音波信号に変換して音響結合された冷媒配管6に送出し、冷媒配管6を伝播してきた超音波信号を電気信号に変換して復調回路に入力する。超音波信号は冷媒配管6の表面あるいは内部空間を伝播する。一般に、冷媒配管6は銅等の中空金属で作られ、その中をフロン等の冷媒が流れる。そしてこの中空金属そのものは、冷媒輸送での熱損失を防ぐためスponジ等の断熱材で覆われている。従って、この冷媒配管6は、いわゆる伝声管を構成しており、これを用いて超音波信号を伝播させるのに好適な構造である。勿論、この冷媒配管6には他の要因による音、例えば冷媒流音、圧縮機振動音、圧縮機駆動用電動機の回転振動音等も伝播する。従って、制御信号の通信に使用する超音波の振動周波数は、これらの振動周波数帯域外を選択し且つ可聴周波数をさけるのが好ましい。超音波トランスジューサ30、31として、例えば、公称周波数40KHzの安価な圧電振動子を使用できるような構成にすれば好都合である。圧電素子は、電気音響変換器として超音波信号の送信と受信に兼用できる。この圧電素子は、適切な音響結合材を介して音響インピーダンスの整合をとり、冷媒配管6に音響結合する。

【0052】室内制御回路15が送信する制御信号は、室内側通信回路16内の変調回路で変調され、室内側超音波トランスジューサ30で超音波信号に変換されて冷媒配管6を室外ユニット3まで伝播して行く。この超音波信号は室外側超音波トランスジューサ31で電気信号に変換され、室外側通信回路21内の復調回路で復調されて元の形態の制御信号となり室外制御回路20に伝達される。室外制御回路20から室内制御回路15への制御信号の伝送も同様である。

【0053】図12は、室内側通信回路16の一実施例を示している。図12において、図2図と同一符号の構成手段はこれと等価物である。この実施例において、61はキャリア信号発生回路、62はFM変調回路、63は符号化回路、64はDTMF信号発生回路、65は復号化回路、66はDTMF信号検出回路、67はFM復調回路である。これらの回路は電源端子52と電源グランド端子53に供給される室内電源回路14からの電源電圧で動作する。

【0054】図13は、制御信号とDTMF信号及び超音波信号のタイミング関係の例を示している。

【0055】次に、室内ユニット2から室外ユニット3に制御信号を伝送するときの動作を図11～図13を用いて詳細に説明する。室内制御回路15からの制御信号は制御信号入力端子54を介して符号化回路63に入力してここで4ビットに符号化する。制御信号が図13に示すようにシーケンシャルなデータの場合には、符号化回路63は単にこれを4ビットづつに区切り、この4ビットデータでDTMF信号発生回路64を用いて1つの多重(2)周波数信号を発生する。制御信号が4ビットのパラレルデータの場合には符号化回路63は不要であり、このデータをそのままDTMF信号発生回路64に入力する。4ビット以上のパラレルデータの場合には、先と同様に符号化回路63で4ビットづつに区切る。更に、伝送時に起こるエラー検出あるいはエラー訂正のための冗長ビットを制御信号に附加する場合には、このビット附加を符号化回路63で行ってもよい。制御信号が他の信号形式、例えばアナログ電圧の振幅の場合には、ここで4ビットに符号化する。

【0056】DTMF(Dual Tone Multifrequency)信号は、PB(Push Button)式電話機の選択信号に使われる2周波数の組み合わせ信号で、互いに素の関係にある4つの高群周波数と4つの低群周波数の中からそれぞれ1つを選択して組み合わせた多重周波数信号である。そしてこの信号には $4 \times 4 = 16$ 通りの組み合わせがあり、4ビットの制御情報を担わせることができる。なお、ここでは簡単のためDTMF信号で説明するが、これに限ることではなく3周波数の組み合わせ、あるいは1つの周波数群に含まれる周波数を5つに増やしても良い。こうすれば1つのキャリア信号(シンボル)に担わせる情報量を増加することができる。

【0057】FM変調回路62は、キャリア信号(例えば40KHzの正弦波信号)を先のDTMF信号でFM変調する。そしてこの被変調信号は、通信信号入力端子56から超音波トランスジューサ30に送られ、ここでFM変調された超音波信号に変換されて冷媒配管6に送出される。この超音波信号の波は、冷媒配管6を伝播して室外ユニット3の室外側超音波トランスジューサ31に伝達され、ここで電気信号に変換される。

【0058】室外側通信回路21は、室内通信回路16と同様な構成である。受信した変調信号は、室外通信回路21のFM復調回路67に入力されてここで復調され、フィルタで構成されるDTMF信号検出回路66によりどの周波数信号の組み合わせであるかが検出される。復号回路65は、この組み合わせ情報を参照して元の符号を再生する。つまり、ここで元の制御信号に戻される。室外制御回路20から室内制御回路15への制御信号の伝送も同様である。

【0059】以上、DTMF信号で周波数変調された超音波信号を用いた制御信号の通信を説明したが、これに限ることはない。例えばFSK(Frequency Shift Keying)等の他の周波数変調方式でも良い。また、PSK(Phase Shift Keying)等の位相変調方式でも良い。更に、図1に示した第1の実施例のように、振幅変調であるキャリア変調を用いても良いが、超音波の伝播では直接波に反響波が重複すること(フェージング現象)による振幅変動が大きいので振幅変調方式は不利である。

【0060】なお、図13では、DTMF信号で変調された複数の超音波信号を各々時間をあけて送信するタイミングチャートにしているが、これは伝播時間の異なる反響信号が次の超音波信号に重複するのを防ぎ、復調動作を安定にするように作用する。

【0061】以上のような室内外分離形空気調和機によれば、冷凍サイクルを構成するために室内ユニットと室外ユニットを結ぶ冷媒配管に制御信号を担わせた超音波信号の伝播を仲介させることで、室内外各ユニット間の制御信号の通信のために、従来機器のような格別の電気通信線は不要となり、空気調和機の据付け作業が簡略化されると共に誤接続の問題もなくなる。その結果、据付け作業費用及び線路価格を低減できる。

【0062】図14は、本発明になる第6の実施例である室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図14において、図1と同一符号を付した構成手段は等価物であり、33は室内側チョークコイル、34は室外側チョークコイル、35は室外ユニット3から室内ユニット2に直流の制御用電源電圧を供給する制御用電源電圧供給線路である。

【0063】この実施例は、室内ユニット2において必要な直流電源電圧を室外ユニット3で作成して制御用電源電圧供給線路35を介して室内ユニット2に供給すると共にこの制御用電源電圧供給線路35を室内外ユニット2、3間の制御信号の通信に利用するように構成されている。室内外各ユニット2、3の通信回路16、21は、結合コンデンサ17、22を介して前記制御用電源電圧供給線路35に接続されて制御信号を授受する。

【0064】室外ユニット3は、商用電源受電端子1により商用電源を受電し、室外電源回路19で該室外ユニット3で必要な直流の制御用電源電圧を作成すると共に

室内ユニット2で必要な直流の制御用電源電圧を作成する。そしてこの電源電圧を制御用電源電圧供給線路35を介して室内ユニット2に供給する。室内ユニット2内の室内制御回路15、室内側通信回路16及び室内送風機制御回路18は、この室外ユニット3から供給される電源電圧を電源として動作する。

【0065】室内ユニット2内の各回路の電源入力インピーダンス及び室外電源回路19の電源出力インピーダンスは、リップル変動等のノイズを低減するために低い値に設計する。このため、高い周波数成分をもつ通信信号を制御用電源電圧供給線路35に重畠すると、この通信信号は低いインピーダンスのために減衰してしまい、正常な通信を行うことができない。前記室内側及び室外側チョークコイル33、34は、直流電源電圧に対してはインピーダンスをもたないが、高い周波数成分の通信信号に対しては大きなインピーダンスをもつ。従って、室内側及び室外側チョークコイル33、34は、通信信号に対しては制御用電源電圧供給線路35のインピーダンスを高め、通信回路16、21から結合コンデンサ17、22を介して該制御用電源電圧供給線路35に重畠される通信信号の減衰を防止する。

【0066】室内及び室外側通信回路16、21の変復調回路50、51の入出力回路は、図4の(A)に示した非平衡回路であり、室内制御回路15と室外制御回路16の間での制御信号の授受は、図1に示した第1の実施例と同様に行われる所以重複する説明は省略する。また、その他の空調動作も同様であるので説明を省略する。

【0067】以上のような実施例によれば、室内ユニット2は内部回路で必要とする制御用の電源電圧を室外ユニット3から得ることができるため、該室内ユニット2内に制御用電源電圧発生手段を設置する必要はなく、室内ユニット2の回路価格及び体積、重量を削減することができ、該室内ユニット2の小型軽量化を容易にする。また、制御信号の通信信号を制御用電源電圧供給線路35に重畠して授受しているため、格別な通信信号線路を敷設する必要がないので据付け作業が簡略化され、作業費用及び線路価格を削減できる効果がある。特にこれらの効果は、1台の室外ユニットと複数の室内ユニットを組み合わせる、いわゆるマルチエアコンシステムにおいて大きい。

【0068】図15は、本発明の第7の実施例である室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック構成図である。図15において、図14と同一符号を付した構成手段は等価物である。この実施例は、商用電源受電端子1により室内ユニット2で商用電源を受電し、これを商用電源電圧供給線路4を介して室外ユニット3に供給する構成である。室外ユニット3の室外電源回路19は、該室外ユニット3で必要な直流の制御用電源電圧と室内ユニット2で必要な直流の制御用電源電圧を作成し、室内ユニット

2のための電源電圧を制御用電源電圧供給線路35を介して室内ユニット2に供給するように構成される。更に、この制御用電源電圧供給線路35には、室内外各ユニット2、3で授受する通信信号が結合コンデンサ17、22を介して重畠される。屋外に商用電源コンセントが設置されていない家屋ではこのように室外ユニット3で商用電源を受電する構成が必要である。

【0069】この第7の実施例における通信信号の授受及び他の動作は図14で説明した第6の実施例と同様であるので重複する説明を省略する。

【0070】この実施例によれば、第6の実施例と同様な効果が得られ、更に、屋外に商用電源コンセントが設置されていない家屋に容易に設置できる効果が得られる。

【0071】図16は、本発明になる第8の実施例である室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図16において、図14と同一符号を付した構成手段は等価物である。この実施例は、2本の電源線を使用した制御用電源電圧供給線路35の端に挿入する1対のチョークコイル33a、33b、34a、34bを室内及び室外ユニット2、3に設け、制御用電源電圧供給線路35を通信信号の伝送に対して平衡線路と成したものである。室内及び室外側通信回路16、21の入出力回路は、図4の(B)に示した平衡入出力回路を採用している。

【0072】この実施例では、通信信号の伝送は平衡線路状態でなされるので、制御用電源電圧供給線路35の直流電源電圧に混入している雑音の影響を受けにくく、信頼性の高い通信が可能となる。この実施例における他の動作は、図14の実施例と同様であるので重複する説明を省略する。

【0073】図17は、本発明の第9の実施例である室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図17において、図14と同一符号を付した構成手段は等価物を示しており、36は室内側結合トランス、37は室外側結合トランスである。

【0074】この実施例は、室外ユニット3で作成した制御用電源電圧を室内ユニット2に供給する制御用電源電圧供給線路35に結合トランス36、37を介して通信信号を重畠するものである。この結合トランス36、37は、例えばE字フェライトコアにエナメル線を巻いたもので、1次巻線と2次巻線とは電磁誘導結合している。1次巻線は通信回路16、21に接続され、2次巻線は制御用電源電圧供給線路35に挿入される。図示の例は、非グランド側線路中に挿入しているがグランド側線路に挿入しても同様である。制御用電源電圧供給線路35に接続される結合トランス36、37の2次巻線は、直流の電源負荷電流が流れるのでが直流に対する抵抗が少なくなるように線径の太い線で巻かれている。一方、1次巻線は、通信信号のみが流れるものであるため線径は細くてもよい。また、直流の電源負荷電流でフェ

ライトコアが磁気飽和しないように材質を選択するか磁路にギャップを設ける等の対策を施すことが望ましい。

【0075】室内ユニット2における各回路の電源入力端及び室外ユニット3における室外電源回路19の電源出力端は、リップル変動等のノイズを低減するために、電源端子と電源グランド端子の間に大きな容量のコンデンサを接続し、交流電圧(脈動)成分に対するインピーダンスを低く設計している。このため、電源端子と電源グランド端子の間は、直流電圧成分に対しては大きな抵抗をもつが、ある周波数(数10Hz)以上の交流電圧成分に対しては短絡状態となる。従って、通信信号に対しては、図18に示すように、室内外各通信回路16、21を結合トランス36、37を介して単に2次巻線同士を対向接続したものと等価な回路状態が得られる。室内側通信回路16からの変調信号電流は室内側結合トランス36の1次巻線に流れ、この電流に基づいて2次巻線に誘起された電圧による電流が制御用電源電圧供給線路35を流れる。そしてこの電流が室外側結合トランス37の2次巻線に流れ、その1次巻線に誘起された電圧が室外側通信回路21の復調回路に入力される。この逆の信号通信も同様である。

【0076】通信回路16、21の入出力回路は、図4に示す非平衡回路または平衡回路の何れでも良い。これは、図18に示すように、通信信号に対しては制御用電源電圧供給線路35が等価的に平衡線路となっていることによる。

【0077】このような室内外分離形空気調和機において、据付け作業で商用電源電圧供給線路が制御用電源電圧供給線路に誤接続された場合、図14～図16に示した第6～第8の実施例では、結合コンデンサ17、22が商用電源電圧で破壊され、続いて通信回路16、21も破壊される恐れがある。商用電源電圧以上の耐電圧をもつ結合コンデンサ17、22を使用すると高価になる。これに対して、結合トランス36、37は絶縁耐圧が高いものを安価に得ることができ、この実施例によればこのような誤接続が発生しても商用電源電圧の大部分は結合トランス36、37の1次巻線と2次巻線の間に掛かり、通信回路16、21の入出力端に過大電圧が作用してこれを破壊する恐れはない。

【0078】この実施例によれば、室内ユニット2は室外ユニット3から制御用電源電圧が供給されるために該室内ユニット2内に制御用電源電圧発生回路を設置する必要がなく、その回路価格及び体積、重量を削減でき、該室内ユニット2の小型軽量化を容易にする。また、制御用電源電圧供給線路35に通信信号を重畠して伝送するので格別な通信信号線を敷設する必要がなく、据付け作業が簡略化して作業費用及び線路価格を削減できる効果が得られる。特にこれらの効果は、1台の室外ユニットと複数の室内ユニットを組み合わせるいわゆるマルチエアコンシステムにおいて大きい。

【0079】更に、結合トランスを公衆電話回線で使用されるハイブリッドトランス（平衡トランス）に変更すればキャリア周波数を送受で変えることなく、双方向通信が可能となる。

【0080】図19は、ハイブリッドトランスを用いて双方向の制御信号通信を可能にした本発明の第10の実施例である室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図19において、図17と同一符号を付した構成手段は等価物であり、38は室内側ハイブリッドトランス、39は室外側ハイブリッドトランスである。この実施例は、室外ユニット3で作成した制御用電源電圧を室内ユニット2に供給する制御用電源電圧供給線路35に室内外各ユニット2、3間の通信信号をハイブリッドトランス38、39を介して重複し、両ユニット2、3間で双方の制御信号通信を可能にしたものである。

【0081】図20は、室内側通信回路16をハイブリッドトランス38を用いて制御用電源電圧供給線路35に接続する場合の一例を示している。図20において、図2と同一符号を付した構成手段は等価物であり、58は通信信号出力端子、59は通信信号入力端子、38は室内側ハイブリッドトランスである。変調回路50及び復調回路51の入出力部は非平衡回路で構成され、通信信号入出力端子が通信信号入力端子58と通信出力端子59に分離されている。変調回路50の出力端は出力抵抗及び通信信号出力端子58を介してハイブリッドトランス38の1次巻線の外端点aに接続し、ハイブリッドトランス38の1次巻線の他方の外端点bは通信信号入力端子59を介して入力抵抗で終端して復調回路51の入力端に接続し、ハイブリッドトランス38の1次巻線の中点cは通信信号グランド端子57を介して電源グランド端子53に接続する。なお、出力抵抗及び入力抵抗は、制御用電源電圧供給線路35の通信信号周波数における線路インピーダンスと整合させるためのもので、変調回路50の出力インピーダンス及び復調回路51の入力インピーダンスが線路インピーダンスと整合していれば特に必要はないものである。

【0082】この実施例によれば、室内外各ユニット2、3の間で高速な双方の制御信号通信が可能となる。また、室内ユニット2は室外ユニット3から制御用電源電圧を得ているので、該室内ユニット2内に制御用電源電圧発生回路を設置する必要がなく、回路価格及び体積、重量を削減することができるので、室内ユニット2の小型軽量化が容易になる。しかも、制御用電源電圧供給線路35を制御信号の授受に利用しているので、新たな格別な通信信号線路は不要となり、従って、据付け作業が簡略化されて作業費用及び線路価格を削減できる。特にこれらの効果は、1台の室外ユニットと複数の室内ユニットを組み合わせるいわゆるマルチエアコンシステムにおいて大きい。

【0083】図21は、本発明の第11の実施例である

室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図21において、図17と同一符号を付した構成手段は等価物である。この実施例は、室内ユニット2に商用電源受電端子1を設けて商用電源を受電し、これを商用電源電圧供給線路4を介して室外ユニット3に供給する構成である。そしてこれから室外ユニット3の室外電源回路19で室内ユニット2で必要な直流の制御用電源電圧を作成し、これを制御用電源電圧供給線路35で室内ユニット2に供給すると共にこの供給線路35に室内外ユニット2、3間の通信信号を結合トランス36、37を介して重複するようにしたものである。屋外に商用電源コンセントがない家屋への適用に好適な電源構成である。この実施例における通信信号の伝送および他の動作は図17を参照して説明した第9の実施例と同様であるので重複する説明は省略する。

【0084】この実施例によれば、室内ユニット2は室外ユニット3から直流の制御用電源電圧の供給を浮けるので該室内ユニット2内には制御用電源電圧発生手段を設ける必要がなく、回路価格及び容積、重量を削減でき、室内ユニット2の小型軽量化を容易にする。また、商用電源電圧供給線路4と制御用電源電圧供給線路35を混同した誤接続があった場合も、第9の実施例と同様に、通信回路16、21を過大電圧による破壊から保護することができる。

【0085】図22は、本発明の第12番目の実施例である他の室内外分離形空気調和機のブロック図である。図22において、図21と同一符号を付した構成手段は等価物であり、40は定電圧回路である。この実施例は、室内ユニット2で商用電源を受電し、これを商用電源電圧供給線路4を介して室外ユニット3に供給する構成である。そしてこれから室外ユニット3の室外電源回路19で室内ユニット2で必要な直流の制御用電源電圧を作成し、これを制御用電源電圧供給線路35を用いて室内ユニット2に供給すると共にこの供給線路35に室内外ユニット2、3間の通信信号を結合トランス36、37を介して重複するようにしたものである。そして更に、室外電源回路19は、室内ユニット2に供給する直流の制御用電源電圧を室外制御回路20からの制御信号に基づいて可変する構成とし、この電圧を変えることによって室内電動送風機13の回転速度を制御するようにしたものである。

【0086】直流電動機を駆動源とする室内電動送風機13は、それに印加する直流電圧を変えることでその回転速度すなわち室内熱交換器12への通風量を変えることができる。

【0087】前述した室内送風機制御回路18はDC-DCコンバータ等で構成され、給電される一定の制御用電源電圧を変化させて室内電動送風機13に与えることで該送風機の回転速度を変えている。この制御は、室内制御回路15から与えられる制御信号による制御指令に

基づいて行われる。室内電動送風機13の消費電力は30W程度であり、これを制御するDC-DCコンバータも相応した電流容量が必要であるので使用する回路素子の放熱器も大きな面積が必要となる。このために室内送風機制御回路18は大きな設置空間を必要としていた。

【0088】そこでこの実施例では、室外ユニット3の室外電源回路19で室内ユニット用に作成する制御用電源電圧の大きさを室内電動送風機23に要求される回転速度に合わせて制御し、これを制御用電源電圧供給線路35を介して室内ユニット2に供給するようにして室内ユニット2に室内送風機制御回路の設置を省略したものである。

【0089】室内制御回路15からの室内送風機回転制御信号は室内側通信回路16、制御用電源電圧供給線路35及び室外側通信回路21を介して室外制御回路20に送られる。そして室外制御回路20は、この室内送風機回転制御信号に基づいて室外電源回路19が作成する室内ユニット2用の制御用電源電圧の大きさを制御し、制御用電源電圧供給線路35の電圧を変化させ、室内電動送風機13の回転速度を制御する。

【0090】室内制御回路15、室内側通信回路16及びその他の回路を動作させるための一定の電源電圧を作成するために、定電圧回路40が機能する。定電圧回路40は、電圧の大きさが変動する制御用電源電圧供給線路35の電圧を入力し、これを一定値に調整してそれぞれに供給する。なお、これらの回路の消費電流は非常に少ないため、定電圧回路40は小電流容量で足りるので小型に作ることができる。

【0091】この実施例における商用電源受電端子1は、室外ユニット3側に設けることもできる。

【0092】この実施例によれば、室内送風機制御回路18を削除でき室内ユニット2を更に小型軽量化することを容易にする。

【0093】

【発明の効果】1つの発明は、冷媒配管を通信信号線として利用しているので専用の通信信号線数を減少することができ、従って、据付け作業が簡略化して作業費用及び線路価格が低減し、また、高電圧の商用電源線を利用していないので通信手段に高電圧遮断機能をもたせる必要がないという効果が得られる。

【0094】また、他の発明は、制御信号を超音波信号の形態に変換して冷媒配管を伝播させて授受するようにしたので、室内ユニットと室外ユニットを結ぶ通信信号線路のための格別の接続線が不要となり、空気調和機の据付け作業が簡略化する共に誤接続の問題がなくなつて、作業費用及び線路価格を低減することができる効果が得られる。

【0095】更に他の発明は、制御用電源電圧供給線路を利用して制御信号を授受するようにして室内ユニットと室外ユニットを結ぶ専用の通信信号線路の接続線数を

削減しているので、空気調和機の据付け作業が簡略化して作業費用および線路価格が低減し、また、室内ユニットは室外ユニットから制御用電源電圧の供給を受けるようにしたので格別の制御用電源装置が不要となり、小形化の障害を軽減することができる効果が得られる。

【0096】更に他の発明は、以上のような特徴を備えた空気調和機が室内的電源端子から受電することを可能とするので、商用電源への接続を容易にできる効果が得られる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第1の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図2】図1に示した第1の実施例における室内側通信回路と通信信号線路との接続関係を示す電気的ブロック図である。

【図3】制御信号と通信信号のタイミングチャートである。

【図4】変復調回路の入出力回路と通信信号線路の接続関係を示す電気的接続図であり、(A)は非平衡入出力回路、(B)は平衡入出力回路である。

【図5】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第2の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図6】図5に示した第2の実施例における室内側通信回路と通信信号線路との接続関係を示す電気的ブロック図である。

【図7】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第3の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図8】図7に示した第3の実施例における室内側通信回路と通信信号線路との接続関係を示す電気的ブロック図である。

【図9】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第4の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図10】図9に示した第4の実施例における室内側通信回路と通信信号線路との接続関係を示す電気的ブロック図である。

【図11】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第5の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図12】図11に示した第5の実施例における室内側通信回路と通信信号線路との接続関係を示す電気的ブロック図である。

【図13】制御信号とDTMFおよび超音波信号のタイミングチャートである。

【図14】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第6の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図15】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第7の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図16】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第8の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図17】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第9の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図18】図18に示した第9の実施例における通信信号伝送系の等価回路図である。

【図19】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第10の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図20】図19に示した第10の実施例における室内側通信回路と通信信号線路の接続関係を示す電気的ブロック図である。

【図21】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第11の実施例を示すブロック図である。

【図22】本発明になる室内外分離形空気調和機の第12の実施例を示すブロック図である。 10

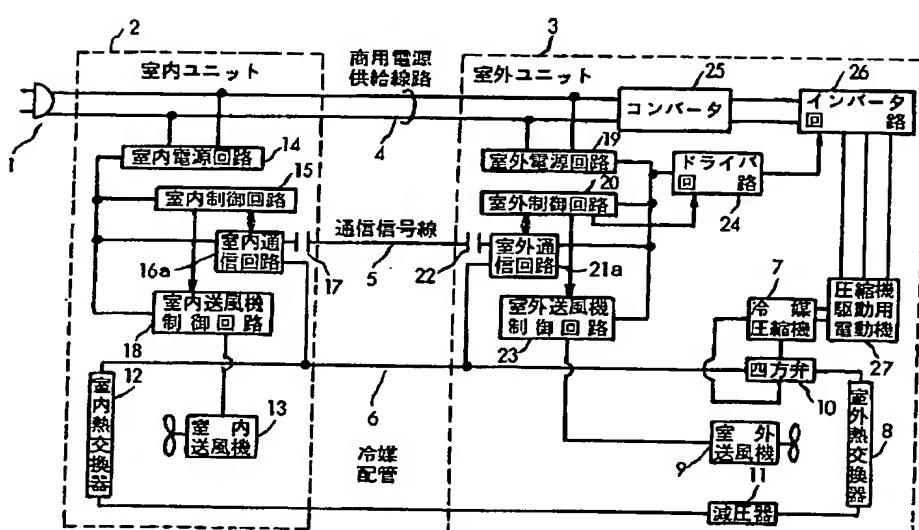
【符号の説明】

1…商用電源受電端子、2…室内ユニット、3…室外ユニット、4…商用電源電圧供給線路、5…通信信号線、*

* 6…冷媒配管、15…室内制御回路、16…室内側通信回路、17…室内側結合コンデンサ、20…室内制御回路、21…室外側通信回路、22…室外側結合コンデンサ、28…室内側結合トランジスタ、29…室外側結合トランジスタ、30…室内側超音波トランジスタ、31…室外側超音波トランジスタ、33…室内側チョークコイル、34…室外側チョークコイル、35…制御用電源電圧供給線路、36…室内側結合トランジスタ、37…室外側結合トランジスタ、38…室内側ハイブリッドトランジスタ、39…室外側ハイブリッドトランジスタ、40…定電圧回路、50…変調回路、51…復調回路、61…キャリア信号発生回路、62…FM変調回路、64…DTMF信号発生回路、67…FM復調回路、66…DTMF信号検出回路。

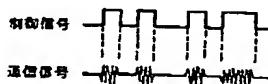
【図1】

図 1



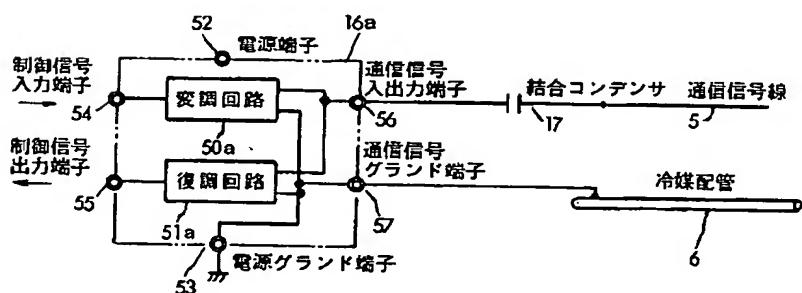
【図3】

図 3



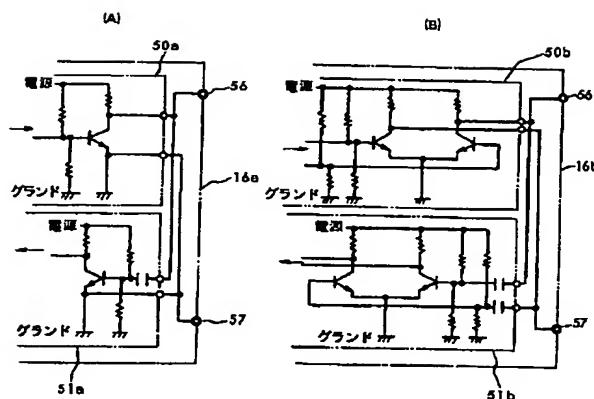
【図2】

図 2



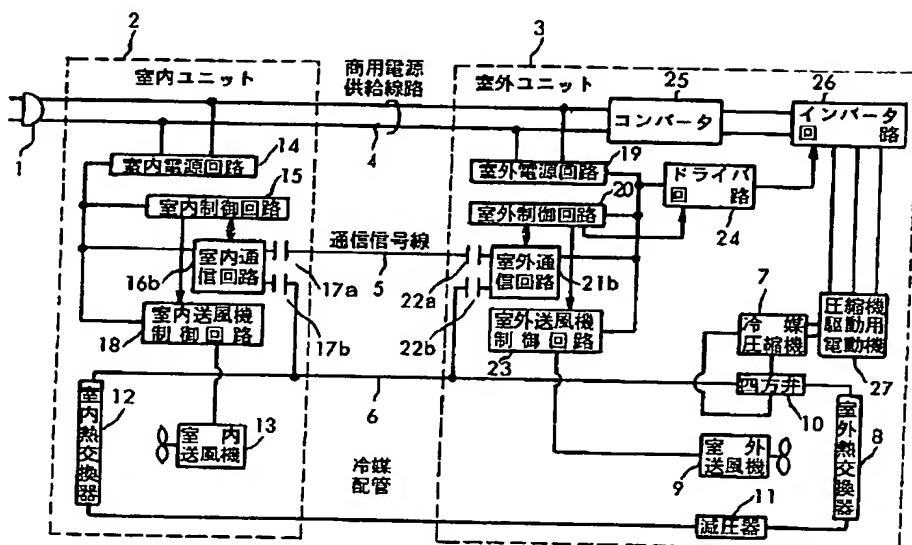
【図4】

図 4



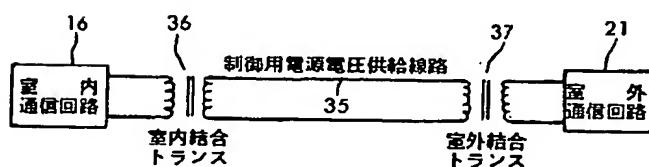
【図5】

図 5



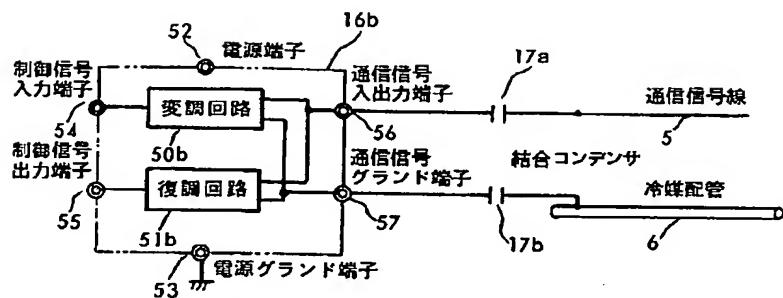
【図18】

図 18



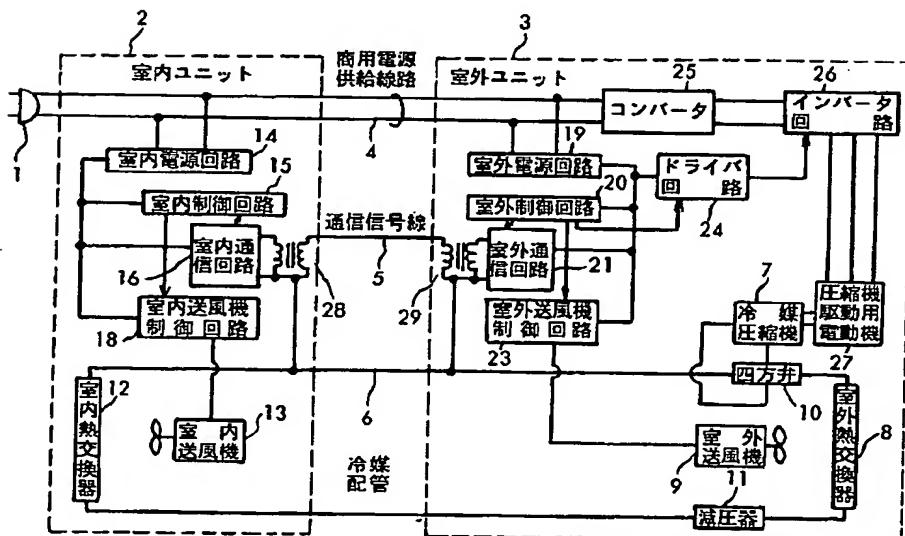
【図6】

図 6



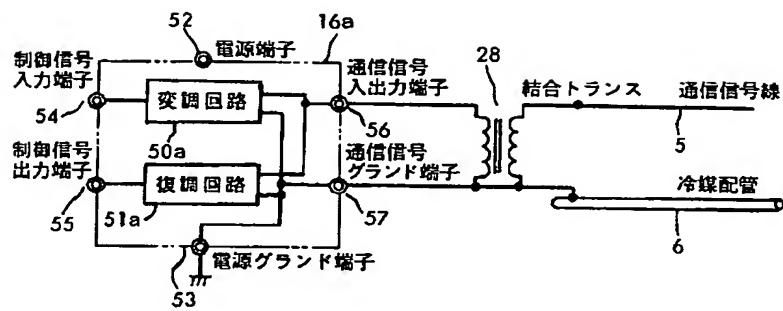
【図7】

図 7



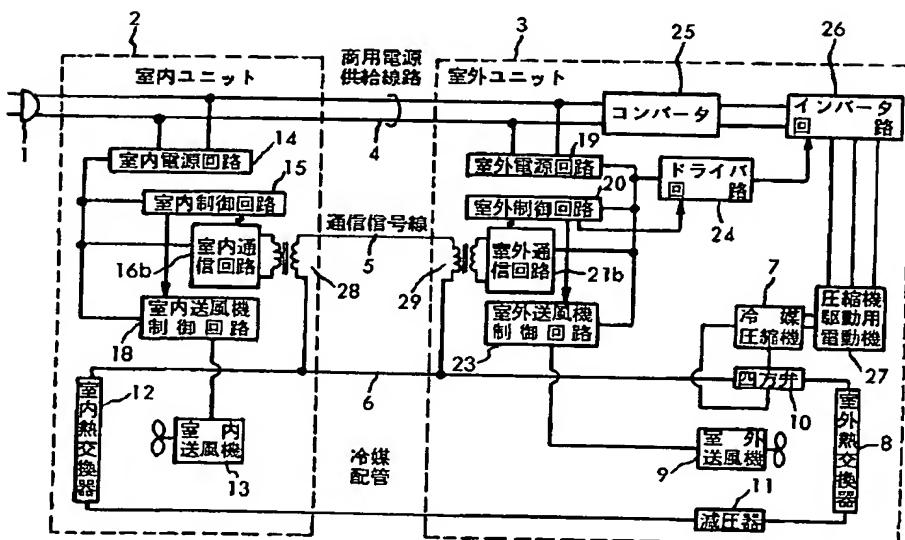
【図8】

図 8



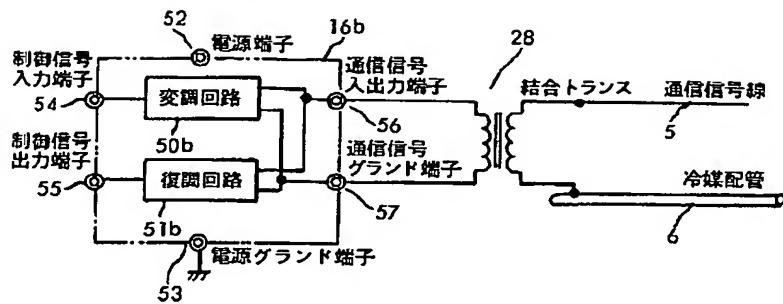
【図9】

図 9



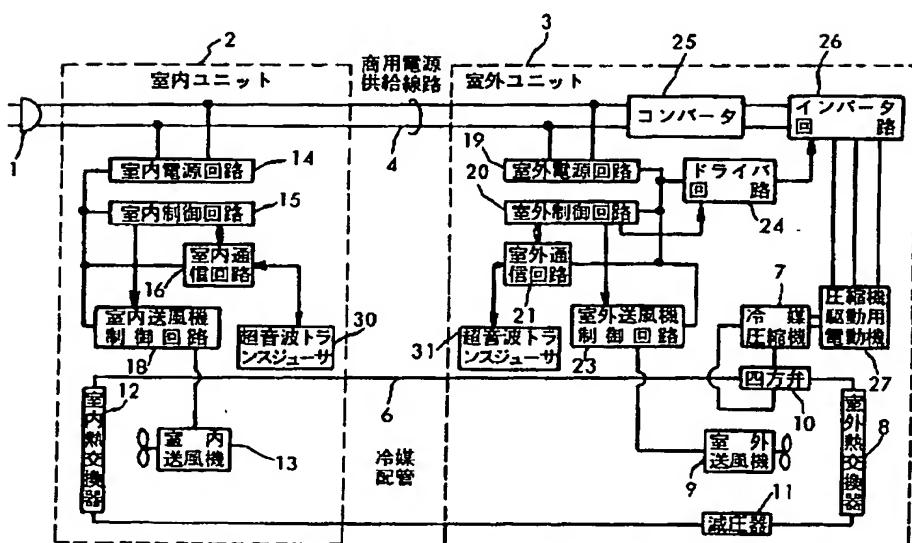
【図10】

図 10



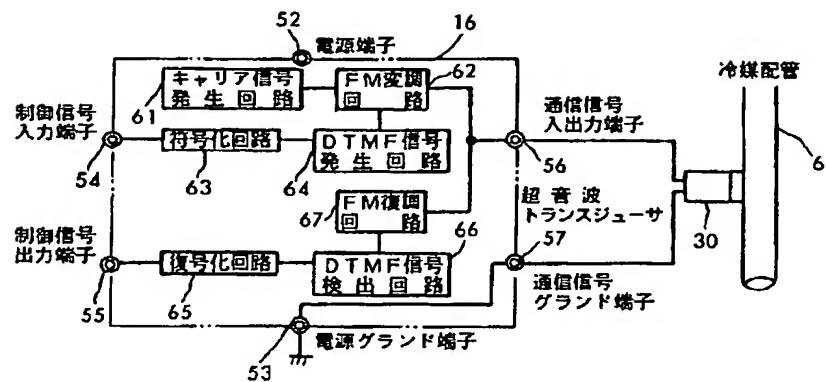
【図11】

図 11



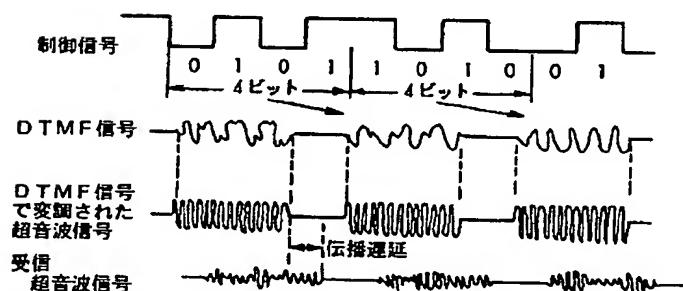
【図12】

図 12



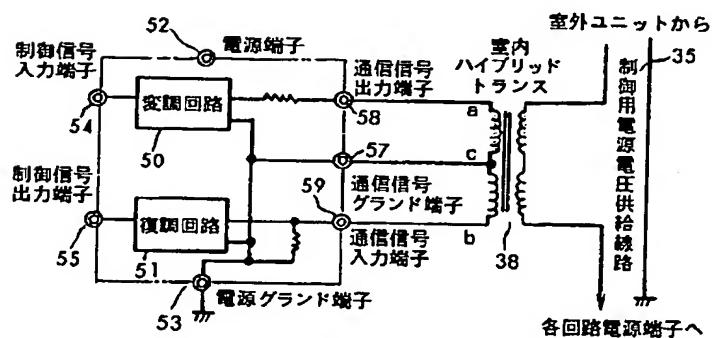
【図13】

図 13



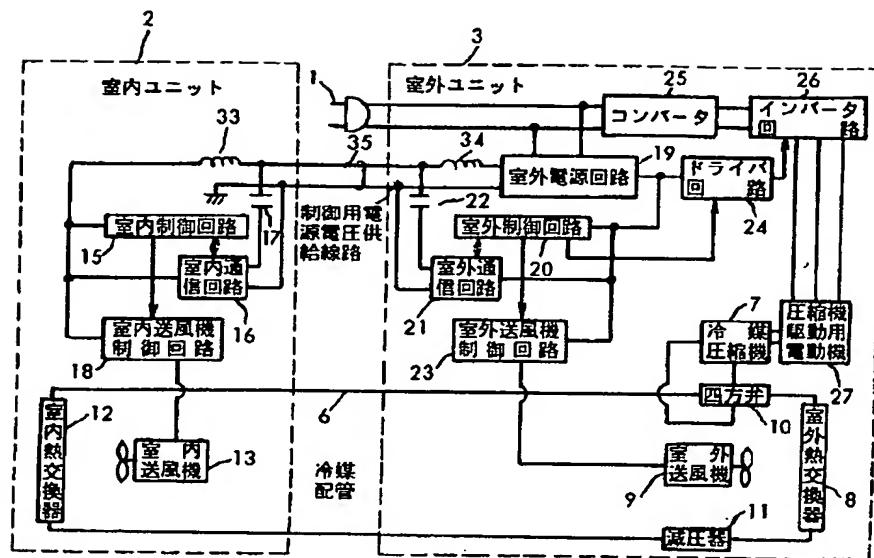
【図20】

図 20



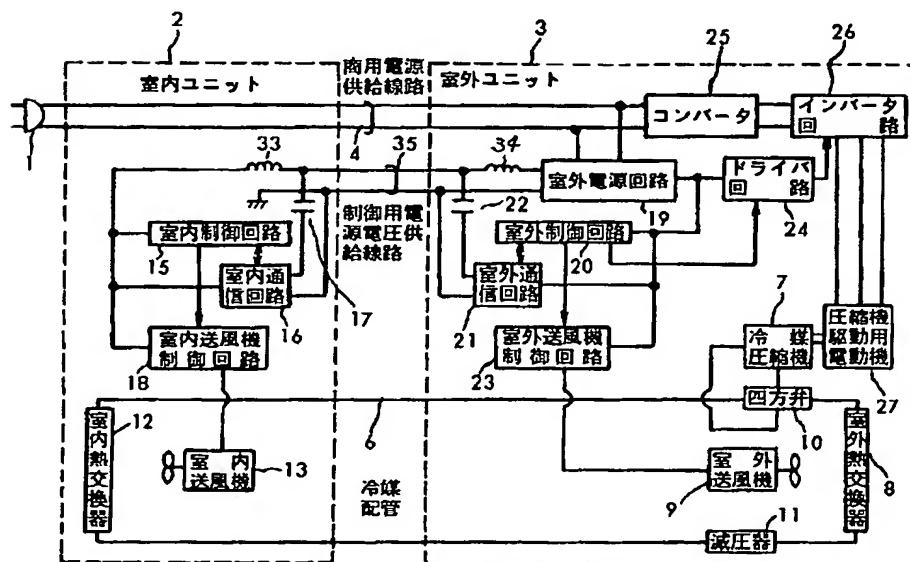
【図14】

図 14



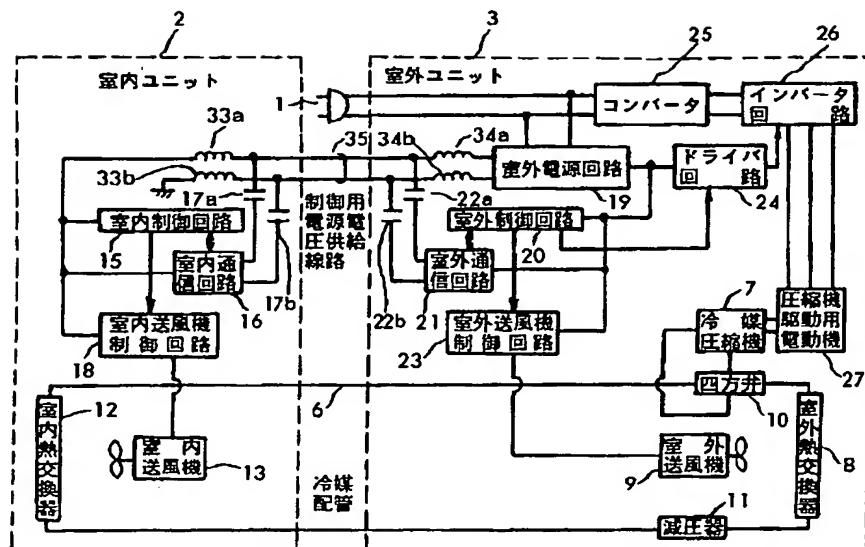
【図15】

図 15



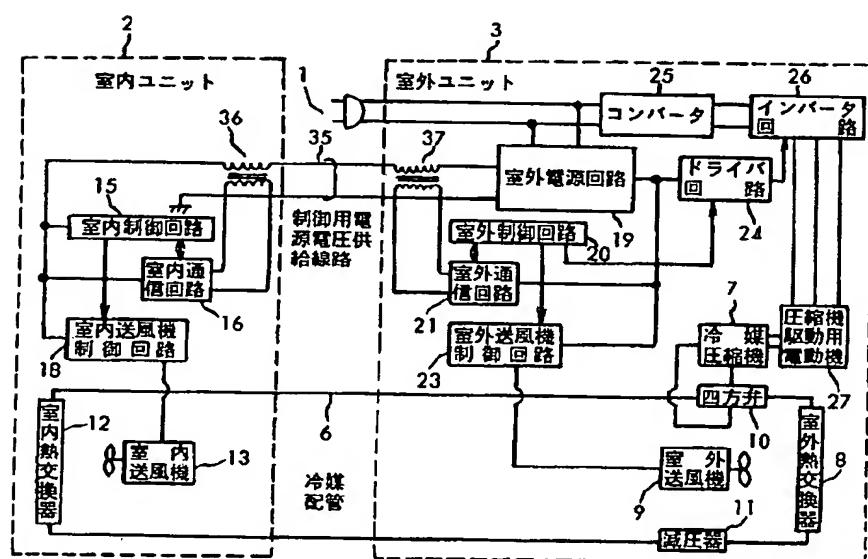
【図16】

図 16



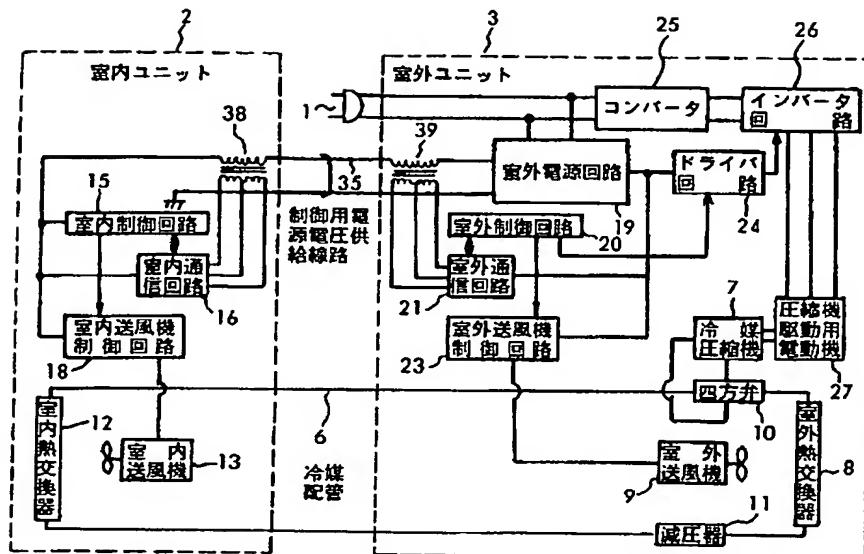
【図17】

図 17



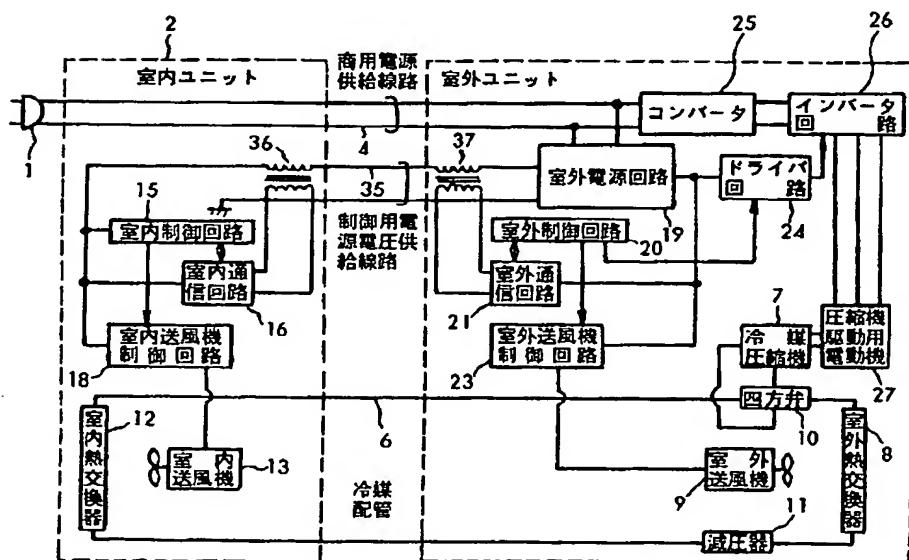
【図19】

図 19



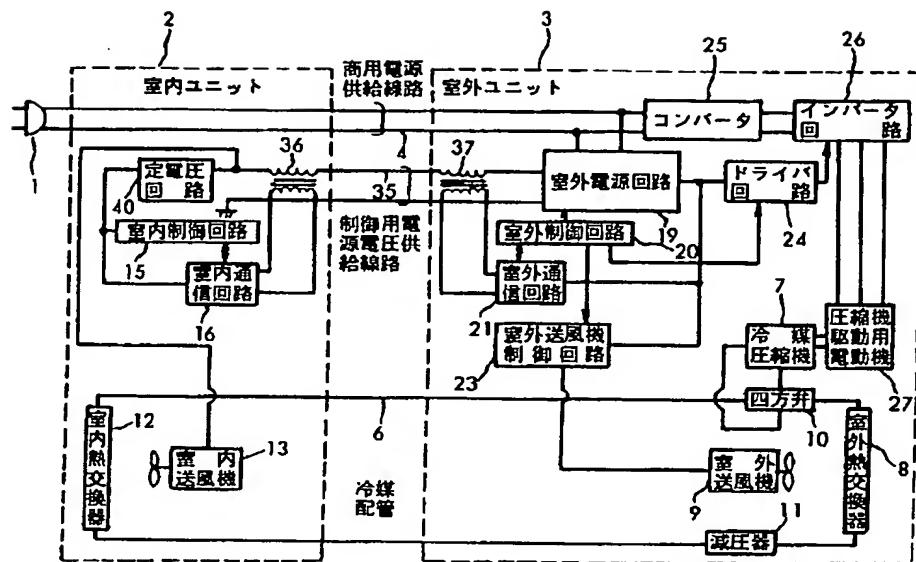
【図21】

図 21



【図22】

図 22



【公報種別】特許法第17条の2の規定による補正の掲載

【部門区分】第5部門第3区分

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【出願番号】特願平6-35021

【国際特許分類第6版】

F24F 11/02 103

【F1】

F24F 11/02 103 C

【手続補正書】

【提出日】平成10年2月26日

【手続補正1】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】特許請求の範囲

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニットの前記熱交換手段間を接続する導電性の冷媒配管及び前記通信手段間を接続する信号線路とを備えた空気調和機において、

前記各ユニットにおける通信手段は、前記各ユニット間を結ぶ1本の通信信号線と前記冷媒配管とを信号線路として使用して制御信号を授受するようにしたことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項2】室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニットの前記熱交換手段間を接続する冷媒配管とを備えた空気調和機において、

前記各ユニットにおける通信手段は、制御信号を超音波信号に電気音響変換して前記冷媒配管を介して授受する電気音響変換手段を備えたことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項3】室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通信手段と商用電源を受電する受電回路と受電した商用電圧を整流して制御用電源電圧を生成する制御用電源回路とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続して前記制御用電源回路が生成した制御用電源電圧を前記室内制御回路及び室内側通信手段に供給する制御用電源電圧供給線路と、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続する冷媒配管とを有する空気調和機において、

前記室内外側各通信手段は、前記制御用電源電圧供給線路を介して制御信号を授受することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項4】請求項3において、前記室内外各ユニットはそれぞれチョークコイルと結合コンデンサを備え、室外ユニットは前記制御用電源回路で作成した制御用電源電圧を前記チョークコイルを介して前記各通信手段は前記各結合コンデンサを介して前記各チョークコイルの外側で前記制御用電源電圧供給線路と接続したことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項5】請求項3において、前記室内外各ユニットは結合トランジスタを備え、室外ユニットは前記制御用電源回路で作成した制御用電源電圧を前記結合トランジスタを介して前記制御用電源電圧供給線路に供給し、室内ユニットは前記制御用電源電圧供給線路からの直流電源電圧を前記結合トランジスタを介して該ユニット内の制御回路に供給すると共に前記各通信手段は前記各結合トランジスタを介して前記各チョークコイルの外側で前記制御用電源電圧供給線路と接続したことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項6】請求項3において、前記各通信手段は、前記制御信号を変調した後に前記制御用電源電圧供給線路に伝送し、前記各通信手段は、制御信号をキャリア変調することを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項7】請求項3において、前記制御用電源回路は前記制御信号に基づいて制御されて前記制御用電源電圧供給線路に供給する制御用電源電圧を変化させ、前記室内ユニットは前記制御用電源電圧を一定電圧に調整して前記室内制御回路と室内側通信手段に供給する定電圧回路を備え、前記室内熱交換手段は、前記制御用電源電圧で付勢されて電圧値に応じた回転速度で回転する電動送風機を備えたことを特徴とする空気調和機。

【請求項8】室外熱交換手段と室外制御回路と室外側通

信手段と商用電源電圧を整流して制御用電源電圧を生成する制御用電源回路とを備えた室外ユニットと、室内熱交換手段と室内制御回路と室内側通信手段とを備えた室内ユニットと、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続して前記制御用電源回路が生成した制御用電源電圧を前記室内制御回路及び室内側通信手段に供給する制御用電源電圧供

給線路と、前記室内外各ユニット間を接続する冷媒配管とを有する空気調和機において、
前記室内ユニットは商用電源を受電して前記室内ユニットに供給する受電回路を備え、前記室内外側各通信手段は前記制御用電源電圧供給線路を介して制御信号を授受することを特徴とする空気調和機。